Raiders find only bomb residue at JI safe house

Story below, Col. 2

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By C. V. Esguerra

FINALLY, a home away from home for "promdi" cops.

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CHEAP/ A8

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GMA's campaign team takes shape

'I should be President of Edsa Dos and Edsa Tres'

By Clarissa S. Batino
in Bangkok
and Juliet Labog-Javellana
in Manila

BANGKOK (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo declared here that she was the leader of the Filipinos who staged Edsa Dos and those who mounted Edsa Tres, while Malacañang officials in Manila began forming her campaign team just two weeks after she announced that she would stand for election in May.

Edsa II was the popular uprising in January 2001 that ousted President Joseph Estrada and installed Ms Macapagal in Malacañang. Edsa III was the protest action of Estrada's supporters on May 1, 2001 that attempted to overthrow Ms Macapagal.

"In my contacts with the majority, above the din of voices, be it Edsa Dos or Edsa Tres, I should be the President of Edsa Dos and Edsa Tres," the President said in a speech before the Filipino community in Thailand on Sunday night. Of the 5,000 Filipinos in Thailand, 1,010 have registered for absentee voting.

Sounding like she was on the campaign trail, Ms Macapagal punctuated her speech with at least eight references to her accomplishments as President.

"I can bluntly say that in my two and a half years as President and in my dealings with people, I gained the necessary experience that helped me understand the need for basic changes in our economic and political system," said Ms Macapagal, who announced on Oct. 4 that she would be running in May.

In Manila, Conrado Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and religious affairs, said brainstorming sessions were being held to organize Ms Macapagal's campaign machinery.

Limcaoco, campaign director of the People Power Coalition (PPC) in the 2001 senatorial elections, said he was one of those who had been "asked to help" organize the campaign team.

"I don't think there is a campaign machinery [now] but we're having some preliminary meetings," he said.

Presidential legislative adviser Gabby Claudio said he and presidential political adviser Hernani Braganza would be part of the campaign team. The "campaign

GMA/ A8

APEC 2003
CEO SUMMIT
THAILAND

CONTRASTING STYLES
While President Macapagal trumpets her support for US President George W. Bush in her speech before the Filipino community in Bangkok on Sunday, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Monday criticizes the United States and other rich nations for their unfair trade deals in his speech before the Apec CEO summit.

JERRY CARUAL/PCPO-MALACAÑANG AND AFP

Bush takes Mahathir to task for remark

BANGKOK—US President George W. Bush pulled Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad aside Monday and told him that his controversial remarks about Jews were "wrong and divisive," a White House spokesperson said.

As both leaders attended the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum here, "the President pulled him (Mahathir) aside between meetings and told him that what he said was 'wrong and divisive,'" said spokesperson Scott McClellan.

"It stands squarely against what I believe in," McClellan quoted Bush as saying.

At the summit last week of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Malaysia, Mahathir had said: "The Europeans killed six million Jews out of 12 million. But today the Jews rule this world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them." He added that 1.3 billion Muslims could not be defeated by a few million Jews.

Mahathir's remarks drew worldwide condemnation, but Malaysia said that Western nations over-reacted to the speech and took it out of context, and the comments were aimed at rallying the Muslim world.

The White House had earlier strongly suggested that Bush would issue a public denouncement of Mahathir's comments, but the US leader instead upbraided him privately.

Earlier, at the opening of the two-day Apec forum, Mahathir took a swipe at rich nations for exploiting the developing world with unfair trade deals, even as Bush continued to harp on his antiterror message.

"The stress should be on fair trade rather

MAHATHIR/ A8

Bush visit kiss of death for GMA, say critics

By Cynthia D. Balana
Michael Lim Ubac
and Christine O. Avendaño

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush's "endorsement" of the candidacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May elections was the "kiss of death," an opposition leader and a militant group said yesterday.

But administration senators said the eight-hour visit of Bush on Saturday bolstered the candidacy of Ms Macapagal, although they agreed with opposition senators that the US leader did not endorse the President's candidacy.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla downplayed Malacañang's claim that Bush had all but endorsed Ms Macapagal's candidacy, saying that no world leader could rescue Ms Macapagal because she is a "hopeless case."

"While the political allies of President Macapagal were gloating over the routine praises she got from President Bush, the harsh realities remain. The solid economic fundamentals that she needs in order to win over the Filipino voters are simply not there," he said.

Padilla recalled that a few years before the series of tumultuous events that toppled the late President Ferdinand Marcos, then Vice President George Herbert Walker Bush, the incumbent US president's father, praised Marcos for his "adherence to democracy." The elder Bush had visited the country as then US President Ronald Reagan's emissary.

Despite the praise from the elder Bush, Marcos was toppled in the 1986 People Power Revolution.

"With all those triumphant statements from the President's men, I am struck with an eerie sense of déjà vu. The elder Bush praising Marcos and the younger Bush praising the President," Padilla said.

Like Padilla, the militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said the supposed endorsement from Bush may spell doom for the administration party.

"It's more of a kiss of death than anything else," Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said, noting that many Filipinos had already realized the folly of following the dictates of the United States over the years.

"If the burning of flags and the demonstrations all over the coun-

BUSH/ A8

Raiders find only bomb residue at JI safe house

By TJ Burgonio
and Christian V. Esguerra

THE ARREST of an alleged senior leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terrorist group and the discovery of a suspected safe house in Cotabato City are new indications that the militant group was plotting to conduct bombings in the country.

Senior military officials gave this assessment yesterday, even as they maintained that residue of suspected bomb-making chemicals, not biological weapons as earlier reported, were recovered during the raid on the JI safe house on Sunday afternoon.

Police sources said a team from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation observed the raid.

"You can expect that the JI's program is for terrorism, so we are vulnerable to that," said Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff.

The raiding team also seized documents, including "one that details some bio-terror manuals or something to that effect," he said on ABS-CBN television.

A joint police-military team raided the house in Barangay Rosary Heights and recovered documents and some components believed to be used in bomb-making. But the team failed to arrest any of its JI occupants, Garcia said.

The raid came two weeks after police and military agents captured Taufik Rifqi, alleged ranking JI leader, at a hotel in Cotaba-

RAIDERS/ A8

Rich, poor heed boy's prayer

By Blanche S. Rivera

NICOLAI Magtibay, the year-old son of a poor couple from Parañaque City, is now in a hospital in Taiwan where he is scheduled to undergo an expensive liver transplant tomorrow, attended by a top team of surgeons.

Eight months ago, his parents Malvin and Jane only had faith on their side. But they boarded the plane to Taipei on Sunday armed with some P3.5 million, and the good wishes of Filipinos from all walks of life—the rich from Makati, employees, housemaids, students, overseas workers—who had sent them the money.

Nicolai suffers from extrahepatic biliary atresia, or absence of bile ducts. In this condition, the bile builds up slowly and destroys the liver.

When Nicolai underwent the recommended Kasai procedure at the Philippine General Hospital late last year, his father was prepared to sign a death certificate. But when Malvin checked on his son, he was amazed to see the boy, 4 months old at the time, awake and playing even as doctors stitched him up.

"I realized that Nicolai wanted to fight this, and I had no right to give up," Malvin recalled in an interview with the INQUIRER during a home visit Thursday night.

But the procedure was not completely successful. Doctors said Nicolai would die within a year if he did not get a new liver.

RICH/ A7

A HOUSEMAID donated her salary for Nicolai's liver transplant.

Now, Erap longs for Polk Street

By Volt Contreras
and Christian V. Esguerra

NOW he wants "temporary house arrest," to keep his 98-year-old mother company in his Polk Street residence.

Detained ex-President Joseph Estrada yesterday made yet another request for a change of surroundings, citing the personal reason.

Estrada asked the Sandiganbayan to grant him a "special pass" to spend some time with his "ailing" mother, Mary Marcelo Ejercito, in San Juan.

He expressed this wish during the court's inspection of his latest detention quarters, a guest house inside Camp Capinpin, an Army training base in Tanay, Rizal.

Estrada's court-appointed lawyers Manuel Pamaran and Noel Malaya told reporters that

NOW/ A5

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/21/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

DOJ ON FELICIANO PANEL FINDINGS

‘Report may be used as evidence’

By Philip C. Tubeza, TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday said the findings of the Feliciano Commission could be used to strengthen the government’s case against the more than 300 military officers and enlisted personnel who participated in the failed July 27 Oakwood mutiny.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said the DOJ could use the commission’s findings as evidence against the mutineers.

“We will study the entirety of the report and see if some of the findings can be used,” Calida said.

Zuño said the Department of Interior and Local Government and the National Bureau of Investigation could get a copy of the report and submit it as additional evidence in their complaint against the mutineers. “Yes, it can help the prosecutors,” Zuño added.

The DOJ is currently investigating the coup d’état charges filed against the mutineers and Sen. Gregorio Honasan, alleged mastermind of the coup plot.

Zuño said the DOJ might come out with a resolution on the case later this week.

Last Friday, the Feliciano Commission released its findings and concluded that the July 27 mutiny was a “well-orchestrated” power grab and not a “spontaneous” one as claimed by the junior officers who led the coup.

“It appears that the impetus for the rebellion, the operative goal of the Magdalo group, was to seize power by force and implement Honasan’s (National Recovery Program),” said the 148-page report of the commission.

But retired Justice Florentino Feliciano, who led the inquiry, said the commission was not tasked to determine the “guilt or innocence of particular people.”

As this developed, the military’s Judge Advocate General Office has wrapped up its pre-trial investigation of the military personnel involved in the mutiny, senior military officials said yesterday.

“The pre-trial investigation team has concluded its investigation of all those involved and they are coming out with a report. We need to wait for a little while for this report to be submitted to the chief of staff,” said Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces’ vice chief of staff.

But Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and five other officers did not undergo the pre-trial investigation, said Garcia. “You can’t force the leaders if they don’t want to. They have waived their right so the charges will continue.”

Some 77 other enlisted personnel, out of the 136 men whose names were on a supposed master list of mutineers, but who did not go to the Oakwood hotel in Makati on July 27, were earlier released. Forty-four others are scheduled for release.

Garcia could not say if the JAGO could use the findings of the Feliciano Commission as evidence against the mutineers should the pre-trial investigation proceed to trial proper.

“Legally, I’m not aware if that is possible, but certainly the Feliciano commission report had validated what we’ve been saying all along that this was not spontaneous. There was a grand design, grand plot to seize power,” Garcia said.

Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police yesterday said that state prosecutors would have to decide whether to ask the courts to cancel the bail posted by former Estrada administrative official Ramon “Eki” Cardenas after the commission upheld the findings on the mutiny.

Director Eduardo Matillano, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief, said the DOJ could exercise the option after the commission found that Cardenas’ house in Dasmarinas Village, Makati was used as a staging area by the rebel soldiers.

Lacson makes rare appearance to reply to libel charges

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson suddenly appeared at Manila City Hall yesterday to affirm his counter-affidavit to the libel charges filed by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, whom the lawmaker had accused of money laundering.

Johnmuel Mendoza, one of Lacson’s lawyers, said even they were surprised when Lacson arrived yesterday afternoon to sign his counter-affidavit which the senator’s lawyers filed on Sept. 30.

In his counter-affidavit, Lacson sought the dismissal of the libel case, invoking parliamentary immunity as his defense.

Arroyo filed the libel charges against Lacson after the latter accused him of laundering about P200 million in campaign contributions to his wife, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lacson, in a privilege speech at the Senate, accused Arroyo of hiding the money in secret bank accounts under the alias “Jose Pidal.”

Mendoza said that Lacson’s appearance was not planned, saying that Lacson’s aides only told them at 1 p.m. that the senator was coming.

“We decided to keep it from the people and the media to prevent trouble. The lawyers thought that it would be better if the senator came today to prevent a possible confrontation with (Arroyo’s lawyers),” said Alex Avisado, another one of Lacson’s lawyers.

Arroyo is due to file his reply to Lacson’s counter-affidavit today.

Lacson, according to Mendoza, was received warmly by the people at City Hall around 3:30 p.m.

“The people were calling him President, and we never expected the reception would be that tremendous,” Mendoza said in a phone interview.

Lacson has earlier declared he will run for President in 2004.

Meanwhile, the Department of Justice yesterday said it would move to inhibit Quezon City Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao from the revived Kuratong Baleleng case should she continue to stall on the prosecution’s motion to have the case against Lacson and 33 others be reraffled to a family court.

“We will go to the Supreme Court. If she will not inhibit herself, then we will not recognize her jurisdiction,” Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno said yesterday. *Tarra Quismundo, Philip C. Tubeza and Tina Santos*

Bill hiking judges’ pay awaits GMA signature

THE SENATE finally ratified last night the controversial bicameral conference report on the Judiciary Compensation Act, which would increase the allowances of judges and justices by 100 percent.

The plenary unanimously adopted the report, which contained the reconciled version of the conflicting provisions of Senate Bill 2018 and House Bill 5178, after Sen. John Osmeña dropped his objections to the proposed act.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, principal author of the measure in the Senate, said President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to quickly sign the measure into law since she had said in February that it would “boost her campaign to build a strong republic by strengthening the prosecutory arm of the government.”

Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, said the report’s approval put an end to “the decade-old debate over the issue of rationalizing the compensation of justices and judges.”

“This is a victory for those who have clamored for reforms in our justice system. I hope by this legislation, the judiciary will find the impetus to bolster its operations and fulfill its obligation to our people more effectively,” Pangilinan said.

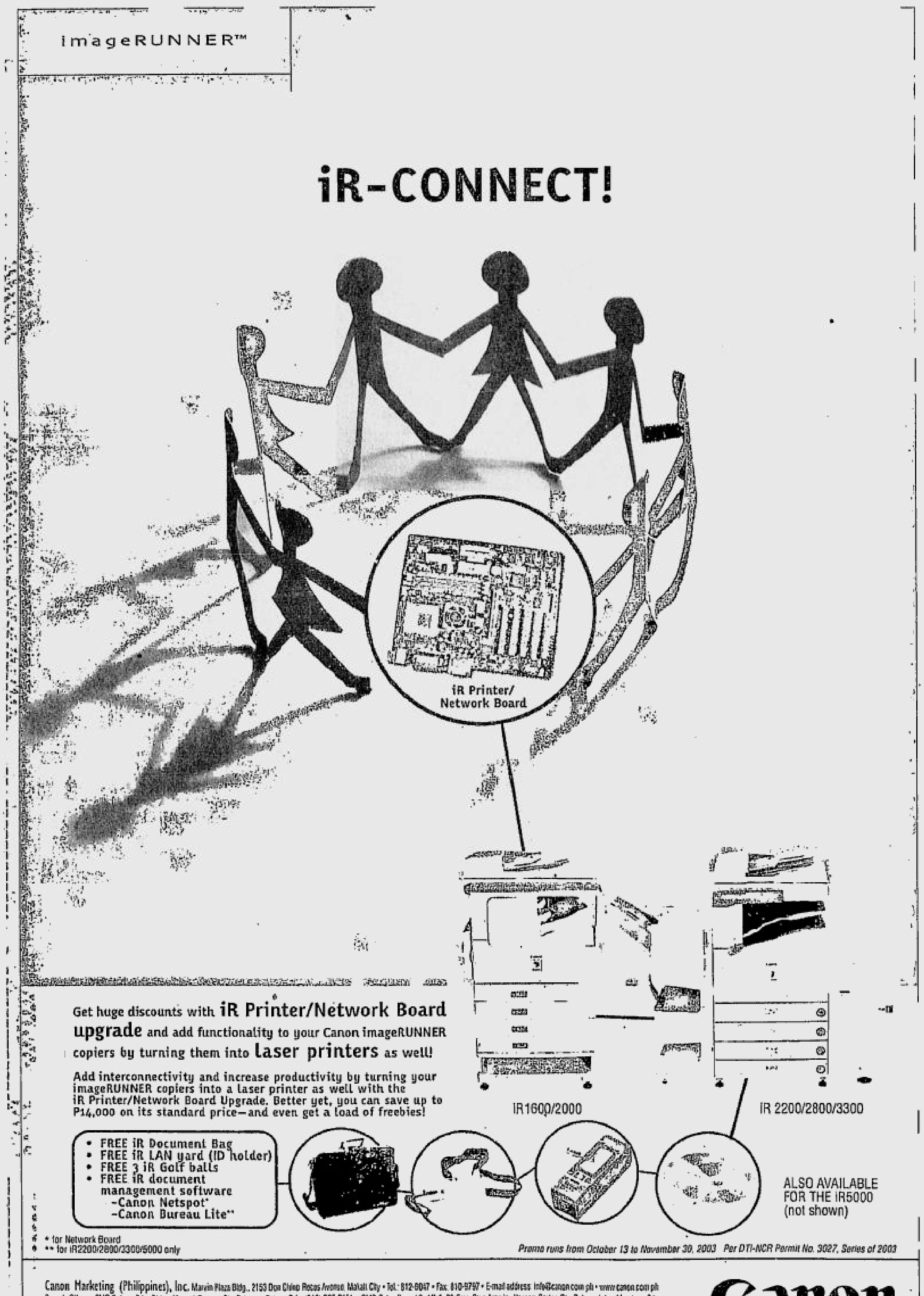
The act would provide special allowances for magistrates equivalent to 100 percent of their basic salaries, to be implemented over four years.

The report was approved by the conference committee on Sept. 2, but on Oct. 6 Osmeña blocked its ratification.

Osmeña’s objection was anchored on allegations the Supreme Court had misused the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF). He then moved to remand the report to the conference committee for amendments.

Osmeña relented after a meeting with Pangilinan where the two senators agreed to craft a separate bill addressing the JDF issue.

Senate Bill 2675, co-authored by Pangilinan and Osmeña, was introduced on the floor yesterday. It is an act amending Presidential Decree 1949 to establish a JDF and for other purposes. *Michael Lim Ubac*



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RP-US relationship maturing, says DFA

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE RECENT state visit of US President George W. Bush was a concrete step forward in the development of a modern, mature relationship between friends and equals, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday in its assessment report on the visit.

"The saga of Filipino and American soldiers fighting side by side during World War II continues to provide the strong bond between the two countries and prominently figured in their talks," the DFA said in a statement.

In a joint statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Bush said the ties between the Philippine and American people were deeply rooted in a shared history and values, as well as in a shared commitment to global peace, security and prosperity.

The DFA said Bush commended Ms Macapagal for her steadfast leadership in pursuing economic reforms and welcomed her pledge to pursue reforms in revenue collection, energy privatization and protection of intellectual property rights.

"President Bush observed that poverty and other socio-economic grievances are often exploited by terrorist organizations to recruit followers and sympathizers and praised President Macapagal-Arroyo's resolve to alleviate these problems," the DFA report said.

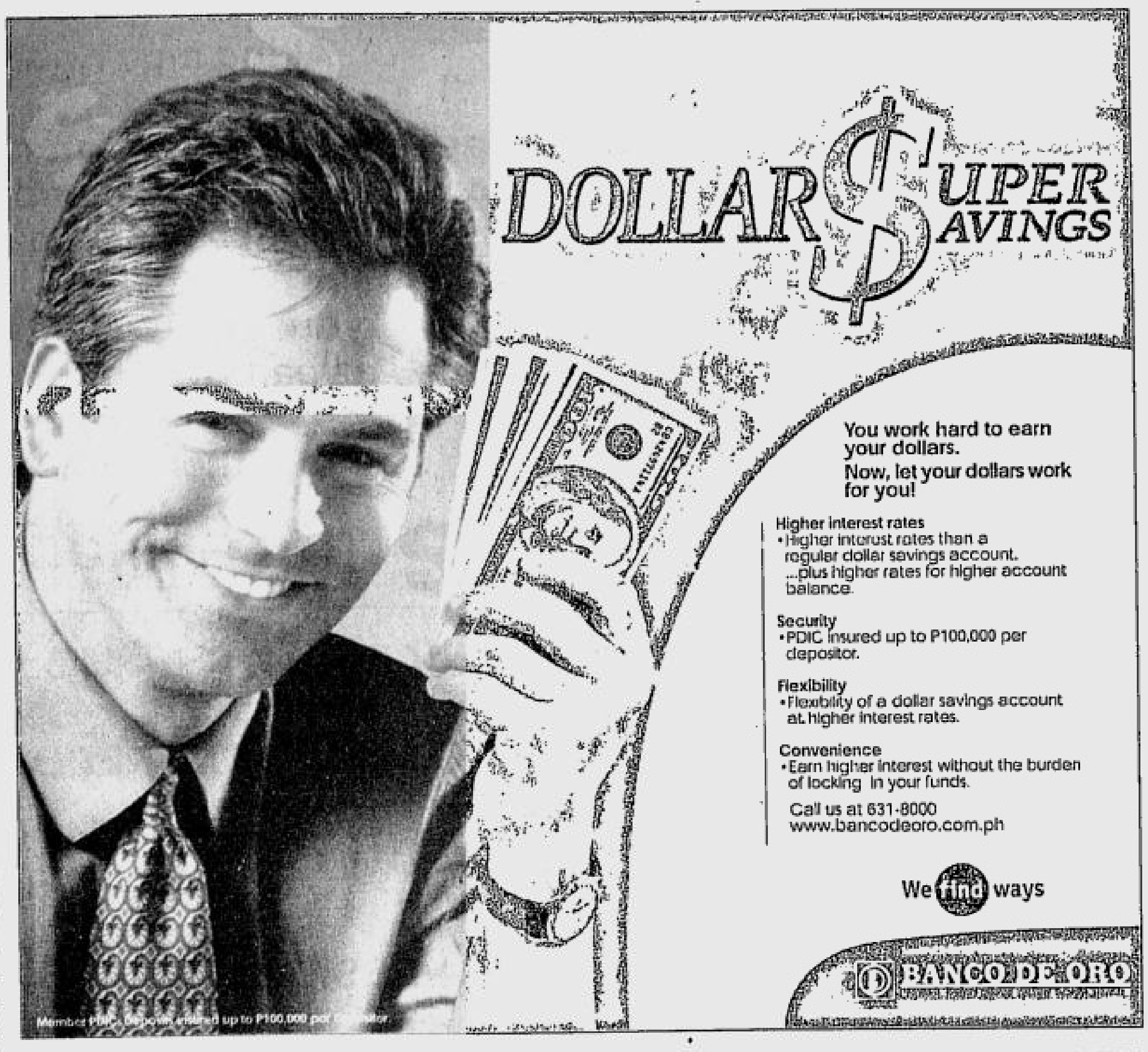
Bush also announced a six-year US initiative to strengthen education in the poorest areas of the Philippines, particularly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

For her part, Ms Macapagal thanked President Bush for his strong support for the Veteran Equity Bills now pending in both houses of the US Congress which would enhance the benefits of Filipino World War II veterans residing in the US.

Bush also announced that the US would double its funding for medical equipment at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City and at the same time expressed his admiration for the impressive contributions of Filipino-Americans to the social, cultural and economic profile of the United States.

The DFA said the two Presidents reviewed recent successes in the war on terror and agreed that much remains to be done in the regional and global context.

Bush and Macapagal also reviewed and endorsed the findings of the 2003 Joint Defense Assessment (JDA) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' capabilities and requirements. The JDA aims to assist the Philippines in developing a defense program that will effectively respond to threats to the country's security. Similar US programs are likewise in the pipeline to strengthen the Philippine National Police.



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Survey says most Pinoys trust Bush

A MAJORITY of adult Filipinos trust US President George W. Bush; even more of them support a continuing American presence in Iraq.

According to a recent Social Weather Stations survey, 53 percent of adult Filipinos expressed "much trust" in Bush. The independent SWS research group said its Aug. 30 to Sept. 14 survey found that only 21 percent of respondents expressed "little trust" in the US leader.

While a clear majority (the survey's margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points), Bush's "much trust" rating was down from the 60 percent recorded in a similar survey in June.

The poll results were released two days after Bush made an eight-hour state visit on Saturday, where he stressed the close cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fight against terrorism.

He also announced increased US military assistance to the Philippines, a former US colony.

Of the 1,200 adults surveyed by the SWS, 68 percent said that US forces should remain in Iraq "as long as is necessary until there is a stable government." Only 31 percent said the United States should not remain.

Only 13 percent believed the United States had found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq while 86 percent said they did not.

The Philippines was one of the first Asian nations to declare its support for the US-led attack on Iraq and Manila has since dispatched a small group of peacekeepers to help American and British forces in restoring order there. *AFP*

Poor feted at Mass for Blessed Teresa

THE POOR in their slippers and house clothes yesterday took center stage at the Manila Cathedral during the thanksgiving Mass for the beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Some 50 sick and elderly wheelchair-bound persons and about 30 children and orphans in the care of the Missionaries of Charity were in the front pews reserved for them at the Mass celebrated by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

Former president Corazon Aquino, former presidential daughter Jackie Ejercito-Lopez and former Commission on Elections chair Harriet Demetriou took a back pew to the "poorest of the poor."

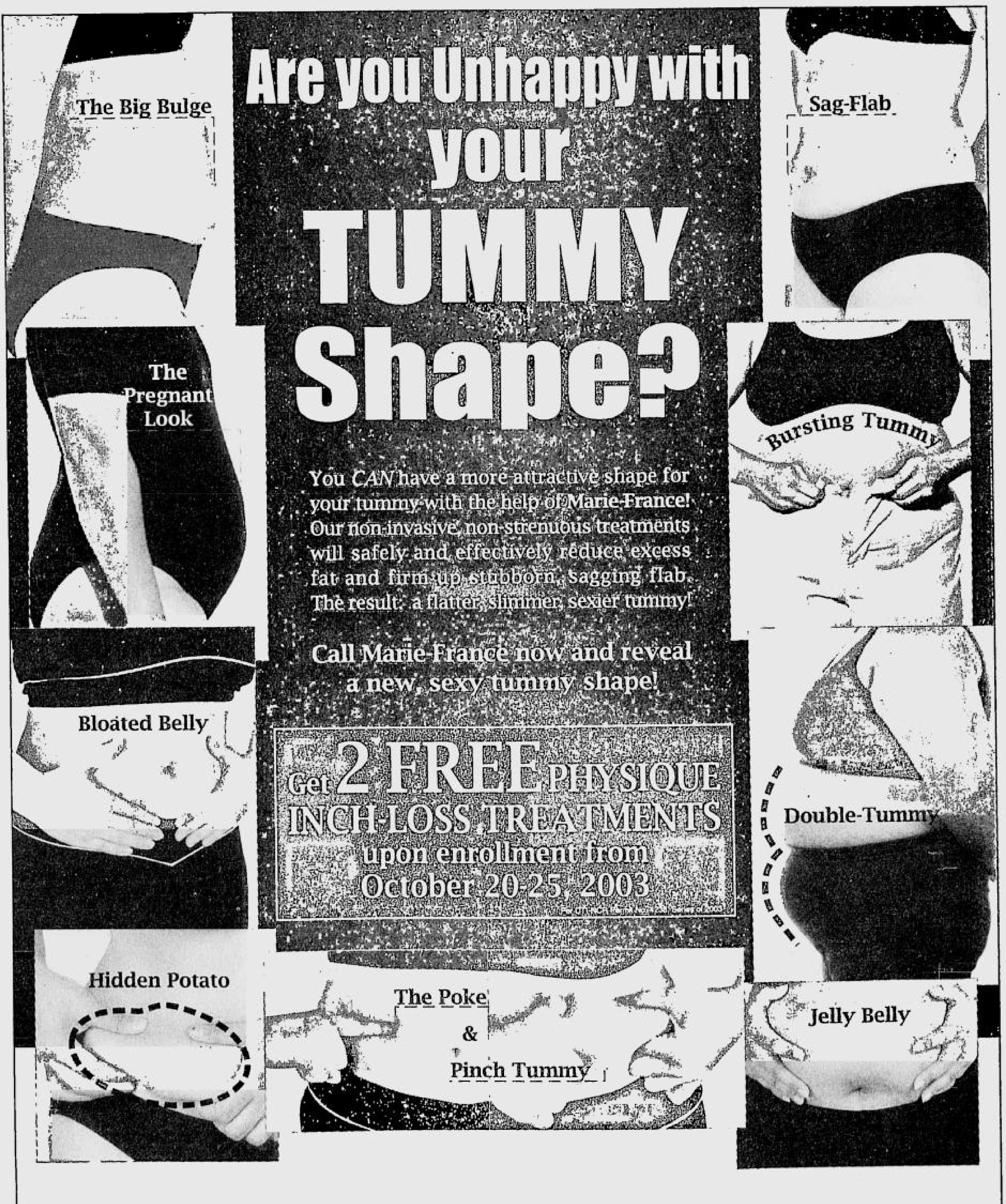
"As we give thanks to God for the gift of this holy woman, we can only exclaim 'blessed are the poor.' Indeed in Blessed Mother Teresa, the poor are blessed because she herself was poor and she loved the poor," Sin said in his homily.

Mother Teresa, who died in 1997, had been to the Philippines several times to establish her Missionaries of Charity here. The congregation takes care of the destitute and the dying in 123 countries all over the world.

Sin had given her a place to build her first home in Del Pan, Manila, in 1977.

Today the congregation has 16 convents, one contemplative house and 23 homes for abandoned kids, elderly and unwed mothers in the Philippines.

"I admire her work for the poor ... I wish we can all be a little like her," said Aquino, who was warmly received by the poor of Manila and the sisters of the mission house. *Blanche S. Rivera*



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We are likewise gratified that you stand with us in opposing the so-called transition presidency formula being pushed as part of efforts to rush amendments to the Constitution.

We will continue our struggle, and together, God-willing, our people will prevail.

TITO GUINGONA, JR.

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ADVT

Now, Erap longs for Polk Street

From page A1

aside from asking for the pass, they would also file a motion asking that their client be allowed to stay at his vacation house right next to Capinpin.

Malaya described the time Estrada would spend in San Juan as "temporary house arrest." Estrada's mother, who was confined for two weeks at the Makati Medical Center, has been asking for her son since she was discharged last week, according to a member of the Estrada camp.

In Camp Crame, Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said he preferred that Estrada remain at Camp Capinpin, instead of returning to his suite at the Veterans Medical Memorial Center.

"To be practical about it," Ebdane told reporters, "it's better that he stay in Camp Capinpin because we'll (save) on our forces and expenses."

But State Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, who called for yesterday's court inspection, objected strongly to the Capinpin option.

Villa-Ignacio demonstrated before media cameras how anyone could easily hold the barbed wire wide apart and pass through the space without injury.

15-minute meeting

Ferdie Ramos, one of Estrada's media coordinators, said the former President made the request during a 15-minute meeting inside the guest house with the inspecting group led by Sandiganbayan Justice Edilberto Sandoval. Also with the group were state prosecutors, defense lawyers and police officials in charge of Estrada's security.

Ramos said Estrada was in a playful mood. "Never in my wildest dreams have I thought of staying in a house like this. I'm a star!" Estrada reportedly said.

But turning serious, Estrada then said, "I might deteriorate here."

In the same exchange, Ramos recalled, Estrada remarked how he got "bored and lonely" when he was detained earlier in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa.

He also said he found Camp Crame, the PNP's general headquarters, rather "crowded" when he was also briefly held there.

"It's quite notorious!" Sandoval quipped, according to Ramos. The justice was apparently alluding to Camp Crame's embarrassing record of high-profile jailbreaks.

"*Oo nga, baka makatakas pa ako roon* (That's right, I might be able to escape from there)," Estrada retorted, drawing laughter from his guests.

Members of the press were not allowed to join or eavesdrop on the inspection.

The only time they got a glimpse of Estrada was toward the end of the proceedings. Wearing a long-sleeve maroon shirt, gray slacks and sandals, the VIP detainee emerged through the front door, smiling like a gracious host seeing off guests after the meeting with Sandoval and the lawyers.

A nightmare

Keeping Estrada in Camp Capinpin, which is a two-hour drive from Quezon City and right next door to the ex-President's 15-hectare vacation estate, "is a nightmare for any sitting President and a dream come true for the ousted President," Villa-Ignacio said.

Aside from opposing Estrada's proposed transfer to his rest house, he raised fears that the estate might be used by his supporters to launch military-backed operations to spring Estrada from the camp.

This was exactly the same scenario uncovered during the July 27 Magdalo mutiny: That rebel officers planned to use the homes of Estrada allies to try to rescue him from the VMCC, he said.

"This is not an ideal arrangement. Personally I'm not comfortable with it," Villa-Ignacio told reporters.

Hearings, too

Ebdane said the PNP was also looking into the possibility of asking the anti-graft court to hold hearings inside the Army base so the PNP would not have to transport Estrada to the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City, a two-hour drive from Tanay.

Ebdane said that, even with the absence of a written authorization from the Sandiganbayan, Estrada's transfer from the VMMC last week was legal because the court sheriff, Estrada and his lawyers were informed of the transfer at least an hour in advance.

Hands-off policy

Malacañang yesterday asserted a hands-off policy on the house arrest issue.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo has left that, that is an operational matter, to the Philippine National Police as well as the Office of the Ombudsman and of course ultimately the Sandiganbayan which is empowered to decide on this issue," deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said in a briefing.

"This is the same position she took when the PNP first decided to move the former President to Camp Capinpin and we are continuing to leave this matter to the PNP, the Ombudsman and ultimately the Sandiganbayan," Saludo said. *With a report from Juliet Javellana*

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$2.6-M ransom asked for 6 workers

KUALA LUMPUR—Armed raiders who kidnapped six foreign workers, including three Filipinos, from a Malaysian resort on Borneo in early October have demanded 10 million ringgit ($2.6 million or P143 million) for their captives' release, a junior minister said Monday.

Chor Chee Heung, deputy home minister, said Malaysia would not pay the ransom.

"The issue of whether we will pay the ransom or not does not arise. A criminal act must be resolved in the same way we fight crime," Chor was quoted as saying by Bernama news agency.

Chor said the police were investigating the person who made the ransom demand.

An unidentified man, believed to be a local speaking in Malay, used a cellular phone to contact the police, the resort operator and the family of one of the hostages after the tiny Borneo Paradise Resort in eastern Sabah state was raided by the band of 10 gunmen on Oct. 5.

Chor said police do not know where the kidnappers are holding their captives but investigation revealed they are safe and healthy, according to Bernama.

Police had said the kidnapping of the three Indonesian and three Filipino workers was carried out by local criminals who may have had foreign help. *AFP*

Sotto's job: Talk FPJ into running

By Carlito Pablo

WILL THEY finally be able to convince him?

The so-called united opposition is now seriously considering Fernando Poe Jr. to be its presidential standard-bearer in 2004.

A source said yesterday the opposition had designated Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto its pointman in trying to convince Poe to run for president in next year's elections.

"It's in the works," said the source. "Tito is talking with FPJ in behalf of everybody in the opposition."

The source also said it was the camp of Sen. Edgardo Angara, head of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, that is at the forefront of drafting Poe.

Other possible standard-bearers of the opposition are businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

The opposition is also considering consistent survey topnotcher Sen. Noli de Castro and former Lakas party member Sen. Loren Legarda.

"Consultations are under way to convince either De Castro or Legarda to run as the common candidate of the opposition," sources in the opposition said.

When sought for comment, Angara's sister, Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, conceded that Poe was not to be counted out of the presidential race yet.

Angara-Castillo noted that there was a big chance that Poe, who has been publicly hesitant about running for president, will throw his hat into the ring.

Rep. Jacinto Paras (Lakas, Negros Oriental), one of Cojuangco's staunchest supporters, acknowledged hearing the buzz that the opposition was drafting Poe.

"I've heard that FPJ is considered by the opposition as its main candidate for 2004," Paras said.

But Paras said he was confident Danding would run.

Cojuangco has kept his supporters waiting since promising two months ago to announce his decision about running soon.

In previous interviews, Paras had said that Cojuangco and Poe were engaged in serious talks about 2004.

Paras had previously said that if Cojuangco decides not to run, he would endorse Poe.

With a Reuters report

'Walkout' party-list solons off hook

THERE WILL be no sanctions against the seven party-list representatives who walked out as US President George W. Bush addressed a joint session of Congress on Saturday.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said he had been told beforehand by some of the congressmen of their intention to walk out when Bush spoke to Congress.

Anyway, the speaker said, Bush and the other congressmen paid the protesters no mind.

"This is part of our democratic tradition. We respect their decision. But what they did was completely ignored and Mr. Bush was very happy about such an incredible full-packed crowd," De Venecia said.

Those who walked out were party-list Representatives Crispin Beltran, Lisa Maza and Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna, JV Bautista of Sanlakas, Mario Aguja and Loretta Ann Rosales of Akbayan, and Renato Magtubo of Partido ng Manggagawa.

Before leaving the session hall, Bautista unfurled a small banner condemning Bush's global war policy. Members of the Presidential Security Group quickly grabbed it from him and escorted him out.

Cynthia D. Balana

Comelec has new mouthpiece

THE COMMISSION on Elections has a new spokesperson in Ferdinand Rafanan, the current director of the Comelec's National Capital Region.

"He will focus on the manual (elections) while I can talk about the automated process," Comelec chair Bejamin Abalos said.

Rafanan takes over from Angelia Matibag who resigned.

Rafanan will be assisted in his new post by Diego Cagahastian, who had been acting Comelec spokesperson the past months. Cagahastian will handle the print aspect of the information campaign.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 21, 2003
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21
Gospel: Lk 12:35-38

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be ready, dress for service, and keep your lamps lit, like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding. As soon as he comes and knocks, they will open to him. Happy are those servants whom the master finds wide-awake when he comes. Truly, I tell you, he will put on an apron and have them sit at table and he will wait on them. Happy are those servants if he finds them awake when he comes at midnight or daybreak!"

Commentary

"If death reigned through the disobedience of one and only one person, how much more will there be a reign of life for those who receive the grace and the gift of true righteousness through the one person, Jesus Christ." A theologian has this to say about the "doctrine of original sin." "Christian realism reminds us of the fact that life is both good and bad, beautiful and ugly, that the world in which we live is characterized by grace-sin tension. A more mature understanding of original sin brings us to the realization that we would be totally subject to the power of sin and death, if it were not for the liberating, healing grace of Jesus Christ. Our powerlessness in the face of the forces of evil and sin should not lead us to despair. Our strength and hope lies in Christ's redemptive power working through the Holy Spirit in the Church, within each one of us, disciples of Jesus Christ." (V. Gorospe, Forming the Filipino Social Conscience, p. 64-65)

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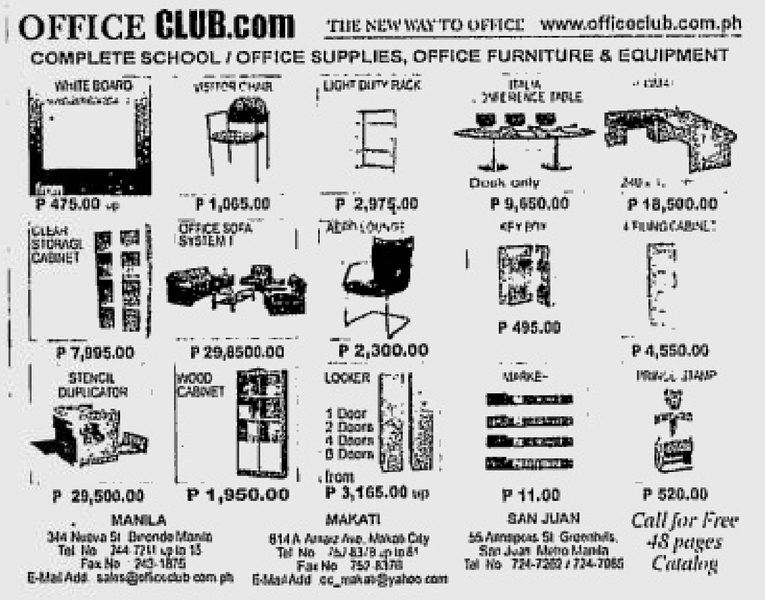

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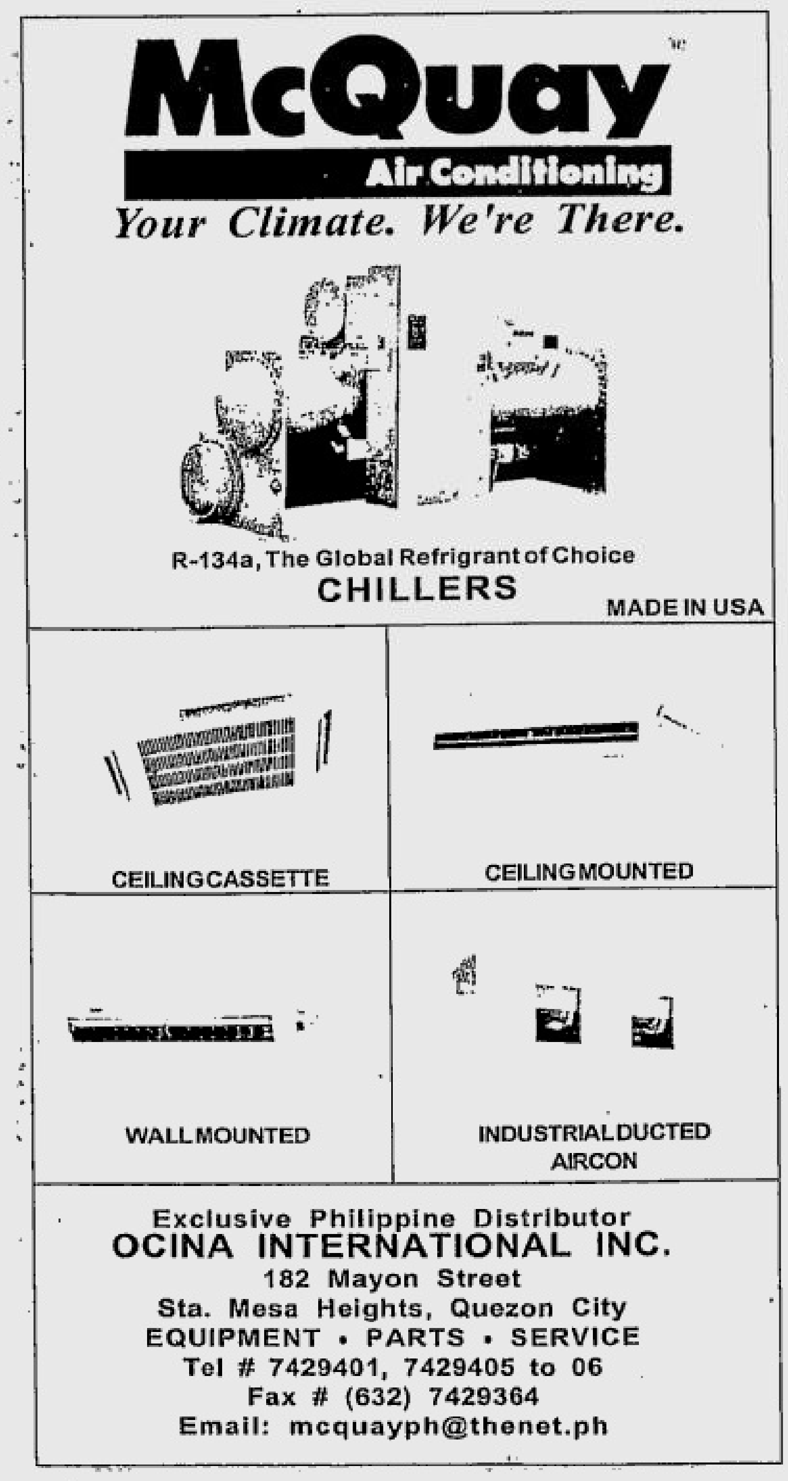

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Rich, poor heed boy's prayer

From page A1

The Magtibays were told that a transplant would cost around P3 million, excluding pre-operation tests and immediate post-operation maintenance.

Hope springs

This was in February and, the couple thought, the end of the road.

But Malvin met Lulu Matubis, whose grandson Jeremaia had gotten a free liver transplant in the United States.

"She told me: 'If you want to help your child, get out of the hospital and ask for help.' So I did," Malvin said.

The first ray of hope shone through Cynthia Reyes-Tsui, of the Asian Overseas Transport Co., who gave the Magtibays P20,000 and opened an account with the Bank of Commerce for subsequent donations. Malvin's friends scraped up P5,000.

From this initial fund the couple reproduced 200 photos of Nicolai and printed 25,000 flyers and 1,000 solicitation letters detailing the baby's plight.

Malvin would station himself in Greenhills, San Juan, as early as 5:30 a.m. daily to distribute flyers to joggers. He was often insulted for his persistence, and once he had a run-in with security guards. Instead of being cowed, he got a permit from the mall management and carried on.

He also went to Rockwell in Makati, and there he met broadcaster Karen Davila, who took up Nicolai's case in her radio and TV programs. She endorsed the Magtibays to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, which gave the couple P1 million.

On one of Nicolai's check-ups at the PGH, Malvin met Caesar Antonio of the Asian Development Bank, who ended up distributing envelopes to co-employees every payday. Through Antonio, Malvin also met Dodie Fabia, an events organizer, who allowed the Magtibays to install donation boxes and put up posters of Nicolai during functions. This sometimes fetched P30,000 in two days, on top of which Fabia gave them half of the entrance fees.

Celebrities shelled out a few hundred thousands, and students from the Ateneo and De La Salle also passed the hat.

Touching

"It was a miracle," Malvin said. "It was like God put donors in front of us whenever we needed something."

Most touching for the couple was the help from poor people like themselves. A housemaid called up Jane one day, crying because she could spare only one month's salary.

A chef who lost his own child to biliary atresia gave Malvin a bucket with P2,500 in P5 coins. A Cebu Pacific stewardess having a birthday party asked friends to help the Magtibays instead of buying her gifts and raised P20,000—the exact amount needed for laboratory tests for Jane, who would be Nicolai's organ donor.

All their prayers were answered to the last detail, Malvin said, recounting how a nurse gave them P500 for the cab the last time they were in PGH.

Deposits made to Nicolai's bank accounts ranging from P38 to P540,000 came from from the United States, Japan, Austria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Australia.

One anonymous donor deposited P300,000, asking only that when the Magtibays someday found themselves in a position to help others, they would not hesitate.

The transplant will be performed by Filipino and Taiwanese surgeons led by Dr. Vanessa de Villa at the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Kaohsiung. The family will stay for three months in a house provided by Rotarians.

Nicolai will require P70,000 a month post-surgery, and take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of his life.

As always, the Magtibays have no idea where they will get this much money. "But we have come this far," Malvin said. "We know the Lord will make miracles happen again."

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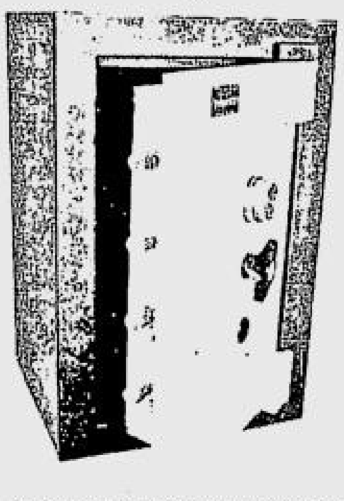

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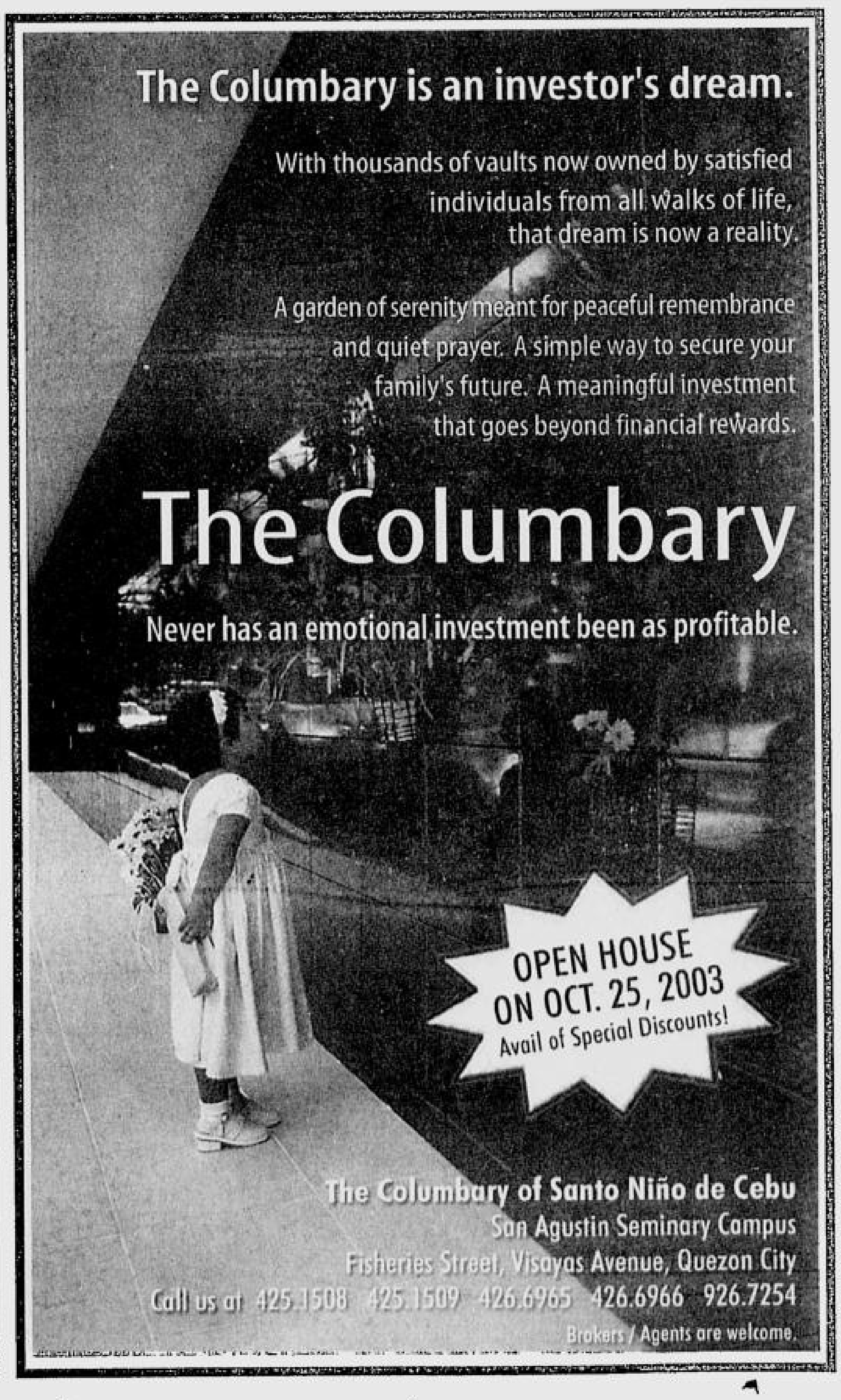
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GMA campaign team takes shape

From page A1

committee" will reportedly include Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao and members of the Palace media group like Tony Abaya and Deputy Presidential Chief of Staff Rene Velasco.

President's political officers

Limcaoco saw no conflict in Palace officials getting involved in the President's campaign to win a six-year term in 2004.

Ms Macapagal's chief legal counsel, Avelino "Nonong" Cruz, had opined that "presidential appointees are political officers of the President and they can help her carry out her agenda," according to Limcaoco.

At the meeting with the Filipino community in Thailand, Ms Macapagal said that among her accomplishments were the 4.8-percent growth in gross national product in the first half of the year, which she said was the highest since the 1997 Asian financial crisis; the ongoing fight against corruption through lifestyle checks on officials, and the fight against illegal drugs.

She said her administration had also cut red tape in the bureaucracy and put in place critical infrastructure like the roll-on, roll-off ferry, which allows travelers to take their cars to destinations like Boracay.

Ms Macapagal claimed that her administration was implementing the biggest housing program in the country's history.

She then urged overseas Filipino workers to continue investing in the Philippines by buying houses through loans with the Home Mutual Development Fund, more commonly known as the Pag-Ibig Fund.

Ms Macapagal vowed to implement reforms that would heal the deep wounds of political divisiveness.

"The deep divisions in our society must be healed. We have the communists on one hand and the fascists, who want to stage a coup, on the other. In the middle are the majority who want democracy and peace," she said.

While there is the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, there are people who are against it, according to the President.

Between supporters of Edsa Dos and Edsa Tres, she added, were Filipinos who wanted reconciliation and economic progress. She asked the Filipino community for support in healing the country's deep wounds.

Evolving

Ms Macapagal's campaign group is still evolving, according to Claudio. "This will not be exclusively Lakas. We're expecting to forge a broad coalition with the Nationalist People's Coalition and other parties," he said.

The partners of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats in the PPC have quit the coalition. Raul Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko, Rene de Villa's Reporma and Lito Osmeña's Promdi have bolted the coalition and are reportedly forming a "third force" along with Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Sen. Loren Legarda, who both resigned from Lakas.

THAI Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra welcomes President Macapagal to Government House.

JERRY CARUAL/PCPO-MALACAÑANG

In the Senate, the announcement by the members of the Wednesday Group that they would hold consultations on the May elections with fellow independents, who ran under the PPC in 2001 has worried Malacañang.

Sen. Ralph Recto said that someone from the Palace called him up last week to ask about the position taken by him and fellow Wednesday Group members—Senators Manny Villar, Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan and Noli De Castro. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Bush visit kiss of death for GMA, say critics

From page A1

try are any indication, Filipinos have realized the effects of US imperialism and trade globalization. It has really affected their livelihood," Hicap said.

A boost

But Senate President Franklin Drilon said the Bush visit "was a boost to the candidacy of the President."

"No question about it. The goodwill of the American President is by and large pervasive. The Philippines considers America as a friendly nation, and certainly his successful visit boosts her chances," Drilon said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said events like the Bush visit "will naturally help the incumbent."

As expected, opposition senators belittled the statements of Palace officials that the visit boosted the President's chances in next year's elections.

"That's a cheap shot because we welcomed the president of the most powerful country in the world and then Malacañang capitalized on it to advance the interest of the President," said Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a presidential aspirant.

Lacson said that the people were intelligent enough to discern "the pretensions of Malacañang's spin that the Bush visit was all about endorsing President Arroyo."

Hallucination

Sen. Edgardo Angara doused cold water on Malacañang's claim that Bush had issued "a hair short of an explicit endorsement" of Ms Macapagal's candidacy.

"There is no endorsement. None. It was just hallucination," said the leader of the opposition bloc in the Senate.

Another opposition senator saw the Bush visit in another light. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Bush's high praise for the country "came from the heart."

He believed that Bush's use of phrases such as "rock of stability" and "light to Asia and beyond" were not hollow accolades to the Philippine government.

"As a democratic nation, the US is trying to show to the rest of the world that if democracy can survive in the Philippines, it can be practiced also in the rest of Asia and Middle East," Pimentel said. "The practice of democracy here is something to be emulated by other countries."

Pimentel, however, said that restoring investor confidence in the country was a an entirely different matter. "It primarily depends on what we do here, not from honeyed words of visiting American dignitaries like Bush."

For its part, the Communist Party of the Philippines condemned Bush for his alleged "outright military intervention in the local civil war and in making a surrogate army out of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP spokesperson, was reacting to Bush's support for the government's five-year program to upgrade the AFP's equipment and capability to fight the revolutionary movement.

Rosal expressed confidence that many of the arms the US would be handing down to the AFP would end up in the hands of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the CPP. *With reports from Norman Bordadora in Manila and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Raiders find only bomb residue at JI safe house

From page A1

to City on Oct. 2, and more than a week after JI bomb expert Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi was slain in a shootout on Oct. 12.

Garcia said Rifqi's arrest and the discovery of the JI hideout were proof that the al-Qaida-linked group was operating in the country, but he stopped short of saying that it was keeping a terrorist cell here.

"There are Jemaah Islamiyah elements operating in the country, and this proves it," he told reporters, but added: "We will not rest easy on making that assumption (that there is a terrorist cell here)."

More JI militants

But Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said up to 40 Mindanao-trained JI foreign militants were still in the country.

"These are foreign terrorists who in 1999 and 2000 conducted training in Camp Abubakar," he said, referring to the former headquarters of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front in central Mindanao.

"When all the camps were dismantled, they were driven away. But they are still there in the area and they are the subject of intensive intelligence gathering of the Armed Forces and the police," he said.

Col. Felipe Tabas, head of an antiterrorist task force in Cotabato, said the authorities suspected that up to eight JI members had trained in bomb-making in the nearby village of Cararao, which formed part of Camp Abubakar.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu again denied charges that the group had hosted JI training facilities.

Garcia said the AFP had yet to establish how long Rifqi and the other JI members, who eluded arrest during the raid, had been staying in the country.

"He mentioned... some companions, but would not give other details yet," Garcia said, referring to Rifqi, who is undergoing tactical interrogation by the military and is being held for violation of immigration laws.

Garcia also said Rifqi's arrest had nothing to do with Al-Ghozi's death or vice versa. "These were two separate operations," they said.

Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. was scheduled to present Rifqi to the media yesterday afternoon but postponed the presentation until AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya was available.

Sunday raid

Members of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Army stormed the house on 4th Road, Don E. Sero Street, Barangay Rosary Heights V, Cotobato on the strength of the warrant issued by Judge Reno Concha.

The house owner was not around but authorities found six Arabic books, tapes and cartridges, dry cell batteries, wrist watches, fuse holders, cables, cords, electronic door bells, cell phone chargers, Christmas lights used as blasting caps, radio speakers used to capture black powder, and a box of medical supplies and over-the-counter medicines.

There were reports that residue of a supposed biological weapon, perhaps a strain of the tetanus virus, were found during the raid, but last night Garcia squelched the rumors. He said PNP intelligence chief Arturo Lomibao told him the tests came out negative.

Earlier, Garcia told reporters: "Some were saying that this was the tetanus virus; that is not sure yet. In fact, there is no basis for making the conclusion which first came out in the media. We don't even know if it was just talcum powder." *With reports from Reuters, AFP, AP*

Mahathir taken to task. . .

From page A1

than free trade. Fair trade can be free but free trade can be unfair," Mahathir said at his farewell appearance at the annual Apec summit in Bangkok.

"We are ready to be exploited but [we] must be fairly exploited," the outspoken Malaysian leader said, drawing laughter at a high-level business forum of Apec, a grouping of 21 Pacific Rim economies that account for about half the world's economic output.

While Mahathir and other leaders pressed ahead with the grouping's core theme—promoting free and fair trade—Bush and other US officials sought Apec's support for his war on terror.

"Every nation, every economy represented here, every business, ever leader, every one of us is a potential target for terrorist activities," US Secretary of State Colin Powell said. "And we ... must do everything in our power to fight this threat and to keep the world safe."

Mahathir, who has stoutly championed the rights of developing countries during his 22-year rule, said it was a mistake to change Apec's focus. Bush, however, appeared to have won the day.

Bush's antiterror theme is spelled out in the summit's draft communiqué. In it, the leaders promise to "dismantle, fully and without delay, transnational terrorist groups that threaten the Apec economies."

The draft communiqué also calls for beefed up regional intelligence coordination. Ports will be better secured and terror financing blocked. Information about aircraft passengers will be shared and the grouping will explore the development of a "movement alert system to protect air travelers."

In the document, Apec leaders express commitment to prepare for potential bioterrorist attacks, as well as future outbreaks of SARS or other infectious diseases.

Divisions

Adding to the divisions among Apec leaders, however, was Washington's condemnation of Mahathir's recent remarks that the Jewish people had an influence in the world that far outweighed their numbers.

"The Europeans killed six million Jews out of 12 million, but today the Jews rule the world by proxy," Mahathir told a summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference last week.

The United States, Israel and the European Union accused Mahathir of anti-Semitism, prompting him to fire back a charge of double standards.

The president "thinks those remarks were reprehensible," US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice told reporters.

Bush and Mahathir were expected to be in the same room at an Apec session, and there were indications Bush might publicly condemn the Malaysian leader's remarks.

Trade talks

On the draft communique, Apec leaders are also calling on the World Trade Organization to restart trade talks that recently collapsed in the Mexican resort of Cancun last month. Several Apec members were among the developed and developing countries that clashed bitterly in Cancun over how to pull down trade barriers, scrap farm subsidies and ensure market access.

"We are putting obstacles in the way of advancement of our economies," said Mexican President Vicente Fox in a speech to business leaders meeting alongside the summit. "We should go back to the table, but we should go back with a political will to overcome this problem."

Mahathir, however, was more blunt in his assessment on why the WTO talks aimed at framing new global trade rules failed, saying the agenda in Cancun favored rich nations.

Calling for a new agenda for global trade talks, Mahathir said the rules of the game should be changed to reflect the interests of developing countries. "We have been haggling over the agenda for some time and we in the developing countries find that we are losing out," he said.

Mahathir said the developing economies were not yet ready to compete on an equal footing with the industrialized nations.

The Malaysian leader, who plans to retire this month, expressed worry that giant corporations from rich countries would gobble up small and weak companies in developing economies if free trade were allowed.

Mahathir, who spent his career courting foreign capital to fuel his country's rapid industrialization, chided business leaders for seeking free access "to every corner of the globe."

"There is this thing called national pride," he said. "We would like to own something of our own. We would like to have a small automobile industry and be able to say, look this car was built by us."

At a morning breakfast meeting, Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun sought ways for their nations as well as China, Russia and Japan to end the North Korean nuclear weapons crisis that has simmered for a year.

Chinese President Hu Jintao is trying to restart the six-party talks on the crisis. *AFP, AP and Reuters*

Cheap motel for cops. . . .

From page A1

ramshackle apartelles when they travel to Manila; they can now stay in an inexpensive and decent mini-hotel right inside Camp Crame in Quezon City.

As long as they follow the rules, of course.

The Kiangan Billeting Center has 41 furnished and fully air-conditioned rooms definitely comparable to three-star hotel accommodations.

Understandably, it offers no spectacular view beyond the bustle of police cars on the street up front and the Olympic-size swimming pool at the back. But the rates are rock-bottom low.

A 24-hour stay in a twin bedroom costs only P650. With additional beddings (and slight rate adjustments), it can fit up to seven people. Single-occupancy rooms go for only P350 daily. Cop-guests are allowed to stay for a maximum of one week, according to office clerk Rowena Modales.

Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday toured the billeting center located on the second and third floors of the Kiangan building. He was surprised at how much it had improved in four years.

"It used to house officers who were not from Manila," Ebdane told reporters. "But it was abused and we had to renovate." And to make sure this didn't happen again, he said the PNP asked a private contractor to manage the center.

The refurbished mini-hotel resumed operations on Sept. 21 with 19 rooms all on the second floor. According to Modales, the center has since been earning handsomely. On Oct. 16, it was packed with applicants for the PNP's lateral entry program. Early next year, she said, 22 other rooms will be available on the third floor.

As in a regular hotel, guests are provided with personal items such as toothbrushes, towels, soap, and razors. There's room service for food, which is delivered from the Kiangan canteen downstairs. Occupants of twin bedrooms have their own toilets while single-room occupants share a spacious comfort room. For P50 daily, guests can also request a television set.

Not a motel

Because the center is inside a police compound and is exclusively for officers, rules are numerous and stringent, Modales said.

First of all: "We have to make sure it is not used as a motel by some policemen and their mistresses," she said.

This was Ebdane's main concern, too. "In a sense, it is a motel—but not according to the Filipino notion of a motel," he explained. "So we'd rather call it a transient structure for officers and men."

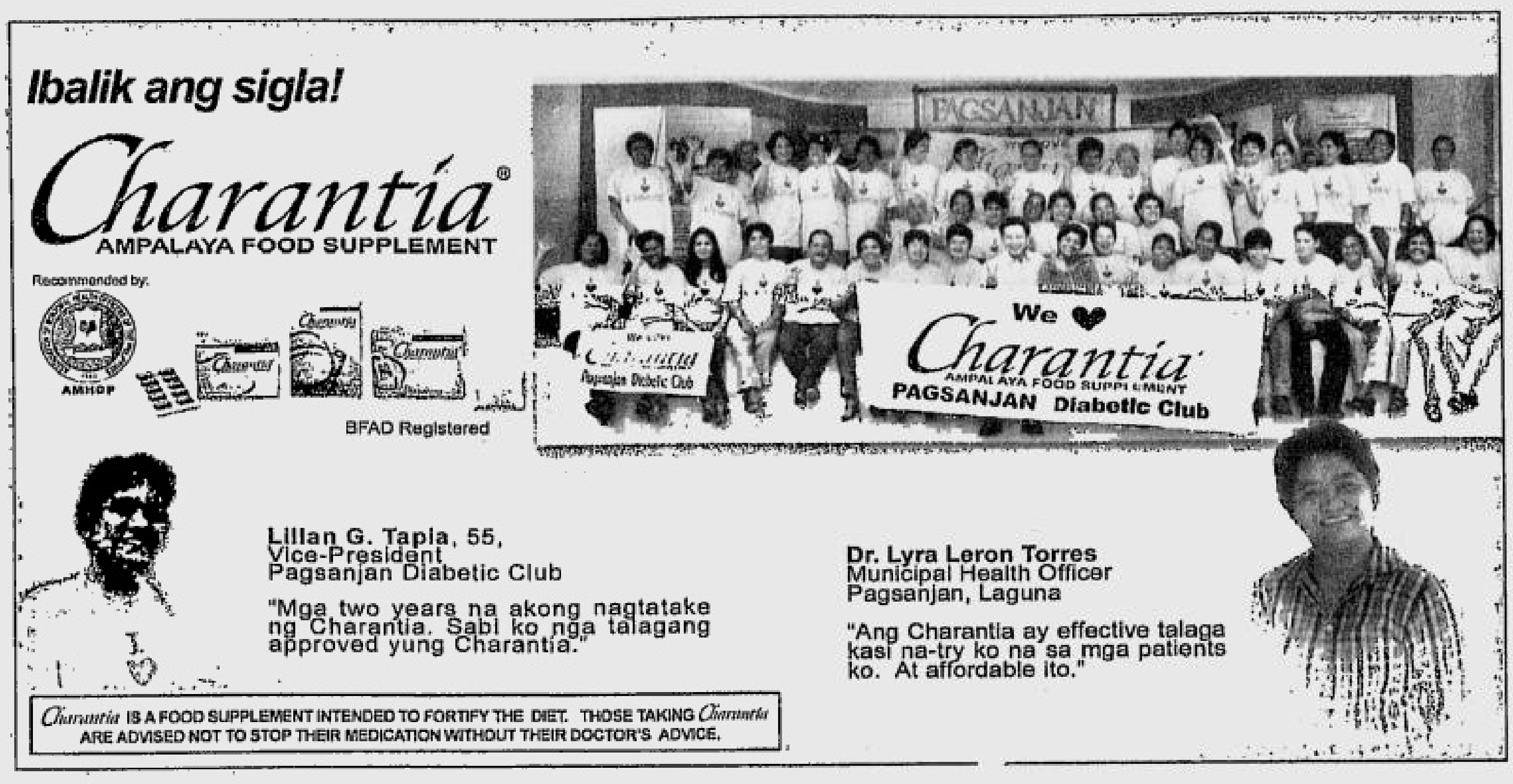
Modales said management had a foolproof method of checking if an officer was with a woman other than his wife. Even in the lounge, visitors—especially females—would be required to identify themselves before they are allowed entry.

Drinking, gambling and firearms are strictly prohibited inside the rooms.

A non-uniformed personnel may use the facility only if he is issued a written recommendation by his superiors.

Kiangan Billeting Center is one of the three "pleasure" spots in Camp Crame intended to keep officers from straying into motels, nightclubs and massage parlors.

The two others are the police generals' "Star Lounge" for drinks and karaoke bouts, and "The Chief" gym, which officers can use at P50 per session, and outsiders for P100.



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Messrs. Bender, Cheng:

Stop Blackmailing the President. Don't Try to Fool the Filipino People Again!

Blackmail: Act of Desperation. Blackmail is often resorted to by people who have run out of options. This aptly describes the desperate measures by Piatco and Fraport. It will be recalled that months ago the Philippine Supreme Court declared Piatco's contract "null and void" due to violations of our Constitution and existing Philippine laws.

No Claim, Refuses Gov't Audit. The truth is, neither Piatco nor Fraport has filed official claim against the Government for reimbursement. To date, Piatco even refuses to open its books for government audit. *Kasi talagang maraming itinatago, gaya ng mga lagay na tiyak mabibisto pati na ang Liongson* payoff, *at iba pa! Mga kababayan, kasabwat ang Fraport dito!*

Government's position has always been to reimburse reasonable and verifiable cost. *Hindi puedeng walang* audit. *Ano sila sinuswerte?*

Bender 'Bends' the Facts & the Law. Instead of accepting judicial defeat as gentlemen, Fraport of Germany, the foreign partner in Piatco, went to the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes purportedly for arbitration. Wilhelm Bender of Fraport "bended" the facts, wildly charging government officials with "extortion" before media, but conveniently excluding such charge at the World Bank for obvious lack of evidence. *Tuso na, sinungaling pa!*

Fraport claims ownership of 61.4% of Terminal 3. But the law limits foreign ownership to only 40% in public utility firms. Is this not an admission that Fraport violated our country's Constitution? *Akala ba nila mga gago ang Pinoy?*

Ano Ba Talaga? The obvious "pressure tactics" of Piatco and Fraport are geared to get the Government to reimburse its padded and overpriced costs. Never mind if they shock the already fragile economy. Never mind if they give our country a "black eye" before the world. *Buti na lang, hindi nila kaya ang matatag na Pangulong Gloria.*

Lumang Isyu … Panggulo! The scheme is to "embarrass" the Philippine government before the world. Piatco used an alien partner and a foreign forum for its "shock" value. *Nagpagamit naman ang Fraport. Pati ang palabang Senador ginamit* for his exposé *kuno. Pagkatapos, pinasabog, ginulo ang isyu … para maka-*headlines *lamang.* The public isn't impressed.

Gov't Must Not Fall Into Trap. *Bistado na ang Piatco at Fraport.* Therefore, the Philippine government must respond with a strong resolve: No deal with Piatco and Fraport officials, the very people who almost ran away with a super-onerous contract. Audit them, and stick to the $300-M original BOT contract less $90 M needed to finish Terminal 3.

Secretary Mar Roxas: Do not give in to Piatco's blackmail. Protect our people and our country from these racketeers! Keep your reputation unblemished!

Once and for all, let's have a swift investigation of graft charges against Jeffrey Cheng, Fraport officials, et al, at the Ombudsman for various graft practices, including huge multimillion peso payoffs to the infamous "consultant," Alfonso Liongson, and many cases of overpricing (remember the controversial Wintrack case of Bebot Alvarez?) that padded project costs.

The accusers stand accused of large-scale corruption!

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US refuses to reopen probe of Vietnam War atrocities

US troopers killed hundreds of villagers, says report

TOLEDO, Ohio—An elite unit of American soldiers mutilated and killed hundreds of unarmed villagers over seven months in 1967 during the Vietnam War, and an Army investigation was closed with no charges filed, a newspaper reported.

But on Sunday, the US Defense Department Sunday refused to reopen an investigation into the suspected atrocities.

"Absent new and compelling evidence, there are no plans to reopen the case," a Pentagon spokesperson said. "The case is more than 30 years old."

The statement came in response to an independent probe of the activities of the so-called Tiger Force undertaken by The Toledo Blade newspaper both in the United States and Vietnam over the past eight months.

Soldiers of the Tiger Force unit of the Army's 101st Airborne Division dropped grenades into bunkers where villagers—including women and children—hid, and shot farmers without warning, the newspaper reported. Soldiers told The Blade that, they severed ears from the dead and strung them on shoelaces to wear around their necks.

The Army's 4 1/2-year investigation, never before made public, was initiated by a soldier outraged at the killings. The probe substantiated 20 war crimes by 18 soldiers and reached the Pentagon and White House before it was closed in 1975, The Blade said in Sunday editions.

William Doyle, a former Tiger Force sergeant now living in Willow Springs, Missouri, said he killed so civilians in 1967 he lost count.

"We didn't expect to live. Nobody out there with any brains expected to live," he told the newspaper. "The way to live is to kill because you don't have to worry about anybody who's dead."

In an eight-month investigation, The Blade reviewed thousands of classified Army documents, National Archive records and radio logs and interviewed former members of the unit and relatives of those who died.

Tiger Force, a unit of 45 volunteers, was created to spy on forces of North Vietnam in South Vietnam's central highlands.

The Blade said it is not known how many Vietnamese civilians were killed.

Records show at least 78 were shot or stabbed, the newspaper said. Based on interviews with former Tiger Force soldiers and Vietnamese civilians, it is estimated the unit killed hundreds of unarmed people, The Blade said.

Army spokesperson Joe Burlas said Sunday that only three Tiger Force members were on active duty during the investigation. He said their commanders, acting on the advice of military attorneys, determined there was not enough evidence for successful prosecution.

The only way to prosecute the soldiers was under court-martial procedures, which apply only to active military members, Burlas said.

He also cited a lack of physical evidence and access to the crime scene, since a number of years had passed. He would not comment on why the military did not seek out the evidence sooner. *AP, AFP*

Blair in health scare, now eases workload

LONDON—British Prime Minister Tony Blair heeded doctor's orders to ease his workload on Monday after requiring electric shocks to regulate heart palpitations in the first health scare of his premiership.

BLAIR punishing a rowing machine Oct. 1.

The 50-year-old Blair, who has had the toughest year of his six-year rule with the Iraq war and its difficult aftermath, was sending his Foreign Minister Jack Straw in his place to report on a European Union meeting to parliament.

He was due to hold some low-key meetings at his Downing Street office and residence during Monday, but would not be back at his desk full-time until Tuesday, Blair's spokespersons said.

"There is no reason why this should reoccur," one spokesperson said of the irregular heart beat Blair suffered on Sunday.

Blair was at his Chequers country home when he felt dizzy and had chest pains.

He was taken to London's Hammersmith hospital, where doctors regulated Blair's heart beat via electric shock in nearly five hours' of treatment. He then returned "well and in good spirits" to Downing Street, the spokesperson said.

Blair has no history of heart problems and is known to be a vitamin-popping fitness enthusiast who plays tennis, works out regularly on a treadmill and even joined US President George W. Bush in a gym for a joint session on a recent trip.

News of his ill health shocked Britons, with politicians and commentators asking just how big a toll the Iraq saga has taken.

Blair has looked stressed and drawn through much of 2003, first as he sold an unpopular war to skeptical Britons, then when critics rounded on him for his office's role in the outing of the name of scientist David Kelly, who committed suicide.

"He's doing quite the most stressful job I've ever seen anyone do. There's nothing like taking a country to an unpopular war," said former newspaper editor Peter Stothard, who shadowed Blair during the Iraq saga and wrote a book on his experiences.

"This is certainly a shock for everyone, and a bit of a wake-up call for him." *Reuters*

SUNRISE IN OAHU

Mark Hines of Kailua watches the sunrise with his son Ka'io Hines at Kailua Beach in Kailua, Hawaii, Oct. 19 on the island of Oahu. REUTERS

North Korea test-fires missile, says Seoul

SEOUL—North Korea on Monday test-fired a surface-to-ship missile as part of its annual military exercise, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said.

"North Korea conducted a missile firing drill today as part of its annual military training," JCS spokesperson Kim Hyoung-kyu said.

He did not say exactly when and where the surface-to-ship missile was launched.

Kim downplayed the test, saying it was part of North Korea's "routine" military exercises which were closely monitored in South Korea.

"We have witnessed such tests three times this year," he said.

In a test in April, North Korea fired short-range anti-ship missiles from its eastern coast into the Sea of Japan.

Officials accompanying Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that started in Bangkok Monday said they were trying to confirm the North's missile test.

"There is information that a missile was fired on the east coast (of North Korea) but it is unconfirmed," Koizumi's spokesperson Jiro Okuyama said.

North Korea's development of missiles, particularly long-range ballistic ones, has sparked concern for years in Japan and the US.

The impoverished Stalinist state is known to have deployed short-range Soviet-developed Scud missiles while developing longer-range ballistic missiles codenamed Rodong and Taepodong. *AFP*

SARS not airborne–WHO

MANILA—There is no evidence to suggest that SARS is an airborne virus, the World Health Organization said Monday in a report that also found health workers to be at special risk and children rarely affected.

The report, summarizing international research on severe acute respiratory syndrome, concluded that at all outbreak sites, the main route of transmission was direct contact, via the eyes, nose and mouth, with infectious respiratory droplets.

"The finding that each patient infected on average three others is consistent with a disease spread by direct contact with virus-laden droplets rather than with airborne particles," WHO said, noting that in airborne diseases such as influenza or measles, one person can infect an entire room by coughing.

SARS, first detected in China in November 2002, killed 774 people worldwide out of nearly 8,100 sickened, according to WHO figures.

The report said health workers accounted for 21 percent of all cases. In some cases, transmission occurred even though they were wearing masks, eye protection, gowns and gloves.

The risk of a person transmitting the disease is greatest at around day 10 of the illness, when a maximum virus excretion from the respiratory tract occurs, then declines, the report said.

On the other hand, research found no evidence that patients transmit the infection 10 days after fever has subsided.

The report said children are rarely affected, with only two reported cases of transmission from children to adults and no reports of transmission from children to other children. No evidence has been found to show SARS transmission in schools, or in infants whose mothers were infected during pregnancy.

Research also showed that five international flights have been associated with the transmission of the disease, but found no evidence of transmission on flights after the March 27 travel advisory in which WHO recommended exit screening and other measures.

The report was released at the start of four consecutive SARS meetings hosted in Geneva by the WHO starting Monday until Nov. 1, which will address priorities for scientific research, laboratory issues, clinical treatment protocols, and prospects for vaccine development. *AP*

US travel executives defy Bush crackdown, visit Cuba

HAVANA—Three dozen US travel industry executives, defying a Bush administration crackdown on American travel to communist Cuba, visited the island on Sunday to explore its business potential.

The group, whose industry stands to gain the most from the lifting of a US ban on travel to Cuba currently being debated in the US Congress, was welcomed with a champagne breakfast to the strains of salsa music and a tour of the city's hotels.

The one-day visit, which included a stop at Havana's Revolution Square, a ride in vintage American convertibles from the 1950s and meetings with ruling Communist Party leaders, was part of the first US-Cuba travel conference held at the nearby Mexican resort of Cancun.

"It has simply been spectacular," said Matt Grayson, director of the National Tour Association, whose members send 1 million American tourists a year on Caribbean holidays.

"There is a tangible feeling in Cuba that you are in a very different place," he said.

Grayson said Cuba had everything Americans tourists were looking for after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks: It was close, it was safe, it had culture and history, and boasted colonial architecture, sunny beaches and diving.

The tour operators' visit came 10 days after President George W. Bush announced a crackdown on unauthorized travel to Cuba under a Cold War-era trade embargo, as part of an attempt to speed up political change on the Caribbean island. *Reuters*

US travel industry executives taking a ride in a classic 1957 Buick convertible followed by others through Havana, Oct. 19. REUTERS

13 bodies found on migrant boat

PALERMO, Sicily—The bodies of 13 African immigrants were discovered aboard a boat off the southern Italian island of Lampedusa and dozens more corpses might have thrown overboard, officials said on Monday.

A spokesperson for the Italian Coast Guards said 15 illegal immigrants, all believed to come from Somalia, survived the nightmarish odyssey in the Mediterranean sea, but one of the survivors, a woman, was in a serious condition.

"Cold and hunger was the reason for the deaths, according to the survivors," said the spokesperson, speaking from operational headquarters on the island of Sicily.

Survivors told the rescuers that their boat had left Libya 20 days ago with around 100 immigrants aboard. They said most of their number had died during the trip and many of the bodies had been thrown overboard.

The boat was discovered Sunday evening. After initial checks, Coast Guards said there were 11 bodies on board. But when the boat was towed into Lampedusa in the early hours of Monday rescuers found a further two corpses. *Reuters*

THE TRUTH THEY TWISTED
BASICS OF FRAPORT'S CASE AGAINST THE PHILIPPINES

Q: Did Fraport sue the Philippines before the World Bank?

A: No. Fraport filed a Request for Arbitration against the Philippines before the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). The World Bank does not arbitrate the dispute. It merely hosts the secretariat of the ICSID.

Q: Can the assets of the Philippines be awarded to Fraport?

A: No. ICSID cannot hear Fraport's claim because it has no jurisdiction over a premature suit. Neither has this been asked for by Fraport.

Q: Why did Fraport file this Request for Arbitration?

A: This is a **common remedy** of international investors who believe they have been treated unfairly by a host country. It is done for leverage, so the foreign investor can claim a superior bargaining position from what it actually has during negotiations.

Q: Why does Fraport believe it has been treated unfairly by the Philippines?

A: Fraport invested in PIATCO in mid-1999 on its assumption that PIATCO held valid concession agreements to build and operate NAIA Terminal 3. The legality of this was questioned as far back as 1996.

The Department of Justice, the Solicitor General, the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, and the Supreme Court held that the award of the Project, and the concession agreements, were in violation of law, onerous to the Filipino people and were null and void for many reasons.

Fraport claims that these were done by all branches of government to penalize Fraport for failing to hire a "politically well-connected lawyer". It has no documents to support its allegation. In the light of the findings of the DOJ, OSG, Blue Ribbon Committee and Supreme Court, these allegations are absurd.

Q: Was Fraport treated prejudicially? Did rules change during the Arroyo Administration?

A: No. The rules on prequalification were laid down in 1994, the Build-Operate-and-Transfer Law. This was the law underwhich the Project was bid out. The public policy about fairness in public bidding and the presence of a level playing field was laid down by the Supreme Court in 1954, and affirmed in 1960.

Q: Was there a way by which Fraport could have known of these rules before it made its investment in PIATCO in mid-1999?

A: Definitely. Before making an investment, a prudent investor will conduct a due diligence on a company it intends to invest in. A simple review would have revealed to Fraport what the DOJ, OSG, Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, and Supreme Court stated.

Q: In retrospect, are the actions of DOJ, OSG, Senate Blue Ribbon Committee and Supreme Court detrimental to the Philippines?

A: This is a landmark action of the Philippines. It is the first time in recent history that all 3 branches of the government took the same stand and delivered a strong "NO!" to contracts riddled with graft and corruption. Businessmen who are used to paying under-the-table payments don't like this because this means cheating and bribery will no longer be tolerated.

Q: Why does Fraport want leverage against the Philippines?

A: After the landmark case of the Supreme Court was released in May 2003, President Arroyo created an Oversight Committee to look into the possibility of taking possession, completing and operating the airport terminal at the earliest possible time.

Q: Why doesn't the Oversight Committee take over the airport terminal now?

A: The Decision of the Supreme Court is not yet final. PIATCO filed a Motion for Reconsideration which prevented its finality.

Q: What is the status of the negotiations between the Oversight Committee and PIATCO?

A: They are trying to arrive at the price at which the airport terminal shall be acquired, should the government decide to acquire the facility, and on the assumption that the Supreme Court will affirm its decision of May 5, 2003. The Government should demand a full financial audit and engineer's valuation of the terminal so the Filipinos will not pay a single centavo more than what is due.

Q: What is the settlement amount?

A: PIATCO claims it should be paid US $550 Million. Fraport claims that out of that amount, it should receive US $425 Million+. This is grossly disproportionate to the price PIATCO was to pay its turnkey contractor for a complete and operational terminal. The turnkey price was US $323 Million. Recent revelations have shown that PIATCO infused less than US$323 Million in actual project costs.

	US $323 Million	turnkey price
Less	90 Million	unpaid amounts to contractor
Less	18 Million	unconstructed underground tunnel
Less	????	Unaccounted deviations & unfinished work
	US $215 Million	at most

With so much unpaid amounts and hidden costs, the Oversight Committee should not agree to pay more than US$215 Million, subject to the financial audit and engineer's valuation by internationally reputable firms. The Commission on Audit should confirm this amount.

Q: If Fraport claims it infused US $425 Million, where did the remaining US $210 Million go?

A: Fraport CEO Wilhelm Bender cannot account for this missing US $210 Million to his shareholders, the largest of which is the German government. These were reportedly lost through graft & corruption. He wants the Philippine government to pay for it and bail him out.

Q: Will the ICSID arbitration prosper?

A: The government has strong basis to have it dismissed at the very outset on jurisdictional grounds. It is **forum shopping** done in bad faith since the case is still pending before the Supreme Court. It is **premature** and not ripe for arbitration. The central issue is the presence of **fraud**.

Q: Did Fraport know of the fraud?

A: If Fraport conducted its due diligence, the presence of fraud would have been too glaring to ignore. In any case, Fraport perpetrated this fraud when it participated in 3 more amendments to the concession agreement.

Q: Can Fraport claim its hands are clean of fraud?

A: No. Fraport participated in the engagement of its multi-million dollar "public relations" man, Alfonso Santo Liongson. Fraport's Berndt Leo Struck and Hans Arthur Vogel signed the Liongson Consultancy Agreement with Vic Cheng Yong. The Blue Ribbon Committee categorically stated that this smacks of **corruption and bribery of public officials.**

Fraport participated in the overcharging of the subterranean works to over a hundred million pesos. They are facing **plunder** charges before the Ombudsman.

Fraport granted monopolies to the Chengs and to themselves. This is **economic sabotage.**

These acts of corruption did not happen only in the Philippines. Fraport has its hands full with accusations that it rigged the public bidding of the Berlin Airport. It has problems because of its monopolistic practices in the airport at Lima, Peru. It also lost in the European Commission when Air France and 6 other airlines complained of its monopolistic abuses such as overcharging of service fees.

Q: Should government give in to Fraport's demands?

A: NO! Congress, the Supreme Court, and the executive branch should rally behind our country in delivering a strong statement to a foreign investor: **GRAFT DOES NOT PAY.** The Filipino people will bear the cost of failing to do so, to the tune of US$200 Million, at least.

FILIPINOS WILL NOT BE BLACKMAILED!

ADVT

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Action

EDITORIAL

NOW that the excitement caused by the Bush visit is over, perhaps President Macapagal-Arroyo can act on the recommendations of the Feliciano Commission that she had formed to look into the Oakwood Mutiny. The commission's final recommendation is that an official of "high competence, commitment and integrity," with direct access to the President and enjoying the trust of all political groups, be designated immediately to carry out on a full-time basis the commission's recommendations.

If the President wants to minimize the threats of a coup or other forms of military adventurism, she should designate such an official immediately. The implementation of the commission's recommendations would benefit not only herself but also the president to be elected next year.

The Feliciano Commission said among the root causes of military adventurism are:

- The politicization of the military amid the erosion of civilian political institutions that have oversight over the military, particularly during and since the imposition of martial law.
- The government's failure to enforce the law, depriving the law of its power to deter, particularly among those who engaged in previous coup plots but who were granted unconditional amnesty in 1995 without prior punishment.
- The AFP's key role in the campaigns against communist insurgency and Moro secessionism that creates government dependence on the military.
- Enlistment by civilians, including politicians, of military support for their personal and political ambitions that contributes to military politicization and adventurism.

The root causes have to be resolutely addressed. For instance, coup participants and mutineers have to be punished to the full extent of the law, and not just be subjected to symbolic sanctions like 30 pushups or the like, or worse, granted amnesty without being so much as a slap on the wrist. Their civilian financiers and supporters also have to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

The military has grown much too powerful since it was used by the dictator Ferdinand Marcos to prop up his totalitarian regime. The "toothpaste has to be put back in the tube," the military role in civilian government has to be reduced and the AFP has to be constantly reminded of the constitutional principle of civilian supremacy over the military. It will take a strong and determined leader to do this.

The commission urged the government and the AFP of the Philippines to address the legitimate grievances of the military against corrupt officers, officials and bureaucrats. Among the major recommendations:

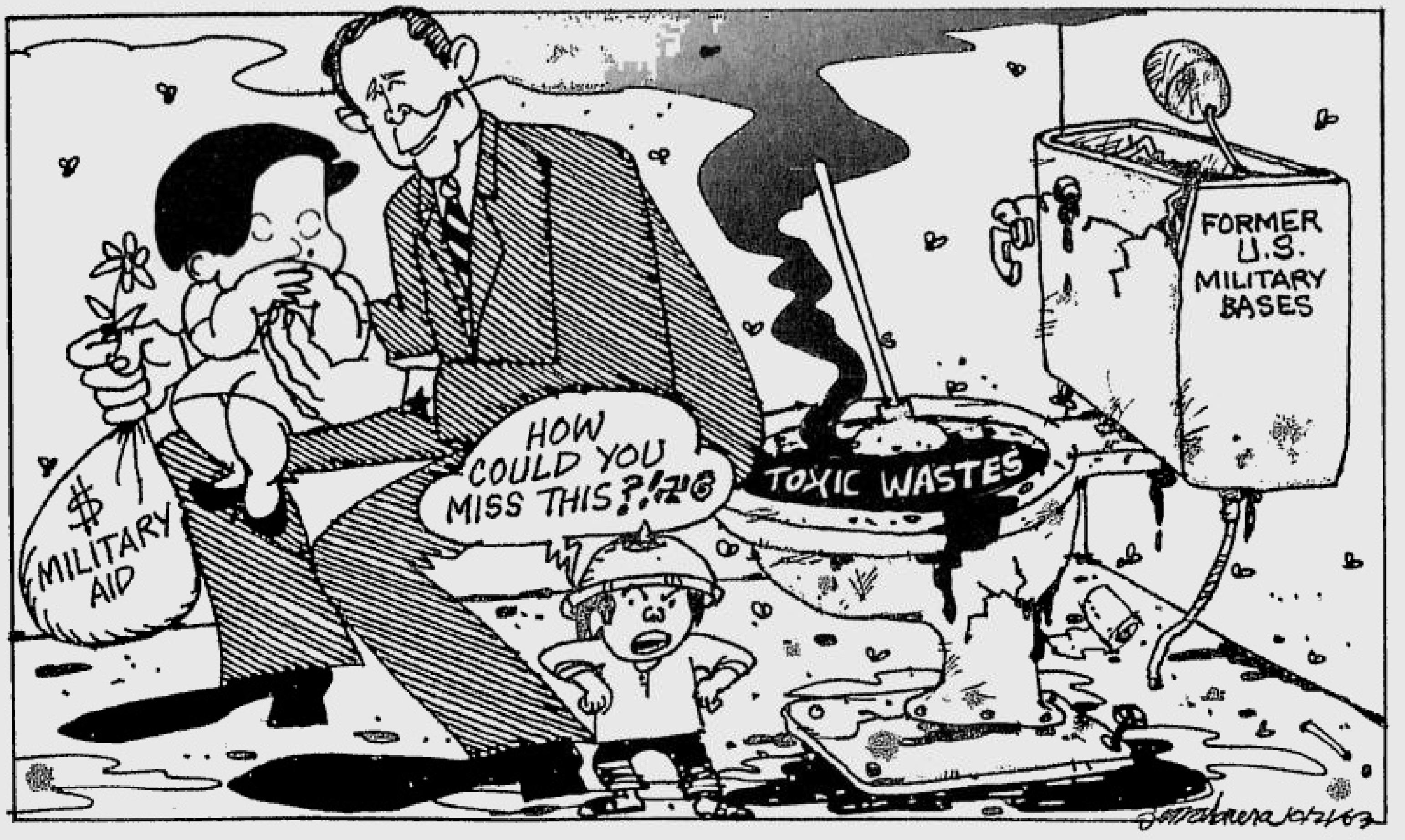
- The Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) system has to be liquidated and the soldiers' contributions together with accrued interest should be returned to them as promptly as possible. An AFP Service and Insurance System, similar to the Government Service and Insurance System, could then be set up, but with enough safeguards to prevent a repetition of the waste and misuse of funds in the GSIS.
- The recommendations of the Senate blue ribbon committee have to be carried out, including the criminal prosecution of Brig. Gen. Jose Ramiscal Jr. (ret.), past RSBS president, and Gen. Lisandro Abadia (ret.) on various charges involving the use of RSBS funds.
- AFP procurement procedures have to be simplified to reduce the incentives for conversion of allocated funds to cash. The "lengthy, complex and circuitous" procedures of procurement in the AFP are a fertile breeding ground for graft and corruption.

To raise more funds for the modernization of the AFP, the Feliciano Commission suggests that the government vigorously pursue the recovery of the Jusmag and Navy Officers Village Association property as well as of land in Fort Bonifacio that has been taken over by squatters.

Other matters that the government will have to look into are the state of the AFP Medical Services, benefits for soldiers killed in action, the pilot to aircraft ratio and housing for officers and enlisted personnel.

But the focus has to be on the meting out of justice to coup plotters and leaders and mutineers, to deter future attempts at military adventurism. The culture of impunity in the military has to end.

Most of the other problems cited by the Feliciano Commission entail the appropriation of large amounts of public funds. Others require either executive action or legislation. But first, one official has to be appointed by the President to devote all his time to acting on the recommendations of the Feliciano Commission. Something has to be done fast to address the root causes of military adventurism as well as the specific grievances of soldiers.



Don't be an irresponsible pet owner

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

RABIES cases—a fatal disease of dogs, cats and other warm-blooded mammals, including humans—is on the rise again in the Philippines. At the same time, there is a shortage of anti-rabies vaccine (I don't know what the Department of Health is doing about this). Put these two together and you have a very dangerous health situation.

Rabies, or lockjaw, is always fatal. There is no cure for it. The vaccine prevents the rabies virus from multiplying in the body. It is given to persons bitten by animals suspected to be rabid, and those at risk of being bitten, such as veterinarians, and other humans who handle animals.

And yet merely walking in the streets of the Philippines exposes one to the danger of being infected with rabies—and eventually dying of it. The reason is the proliferation of dogs out in the streets which sometimes bite passing humans. In a country like the Philippines, which ranks fourth in the world in the number of rabies cases, this could be a life-threatening situation.

But it is not the fault of the dogs but of their owners. Dogs are supposed to be kept inside their owners' yards, not let loose to roam in the streets. There are laws and ordinances against this, as well as on responsible pet ownership, but they are not enforced. Pet owners who profess loving their pets and believe it, violate them with impunity every day. These people include educated, respectable, supposedly intelligent and sensible people who live in first-class neighborhoods.

Most people have dogs to guard their homes. But how can the dogs guard their masters' homes when they are turned loose on the streets, especially at night when burglars are active?

Outside, dogs not only pose a danger to passing humans, but are themselves exposed to dangers, which owners who really love their pets should realize. They can be run over by vehicles, stolen by dog-eaters or attacked by other dogs, some of which may be rabid. The dogs also go through garbage cans and scatter the garbage, where they may eat poisonous substances. They may also be infected with other diseases and parasites. Bitches may be impregnated by other stray dogs and bear unwanted puppies. Or they may be caught by government dogcatchers and taken to the city pound and put to death.

It gets worse. Some despicable dog owners who no longer want their dogs, purposely cast them out and let the community solve their problem. As strays, dogs live a miserable existence, grubbing for food and exposed to the dangers cited above, die. Yet it is not their fault, but the fault of their owners.

For cats, things can be worse. Unwanted cats and kittens are routinely thrown into empty lots, parks, sidewalks and parking lots, like so much garbage and not living, breathing creatures capable of pain and suffering. Even respectable families routinely do this despicable act without any qualms. Then they go to church on Sunday and feel very holy.

Some homeowners' associations try to solve the problem by catching the dogs, putting them in cages, waiting for their owners to claim them and fining them. Rather than pay the fine (for the dogs' food and care), owners don't reclaim them.

As mentioned earlier, some owners purposely cast their dogs out so the dogcatchers will get them out of their hands. These are the creatures who should be punished. But whom do we punish? The poor dog, whose only participation in the whole deal is to be owned by an irresponsible master.

When the dog is not reclaimed, it is turned over to the barangay or the city pound (very few cities and municipalities have pounds for animals). The law says they should be fed, vaccinated, cared for and then given out for adoption to qualified families. Those that are not adopted are put to death—the law says "humanely." Which means putting them to sleep with an injection, but in reality they are sold to the neighborhood drunks or to commercial dog traffickers who, in turn, sell them to *carinderias* specializing in *azucena*, which kill the dogs brutally, almost always by clubbing them on the head.

These are all against Republic Act 8485, the Animal Welfare Act, and MMC Ordinance 8202, but these acts are being committed with impunity right and left and very few are ever prosecuted and convicted.

"Any form of animal control should be tempered with a deep sense of responsibility, understanding and compassion, considering that the objects of these measures are also sentient beings, capable of pain and suffering—like us," says the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

PAWS accepts unwanted pets and keep them in their animal shelter. There they are fed, bathed, vaccinated and given veterinary care. Then they are given to kind-hearted, responsible families for adoption. However, only 38 percent of dogs in PAWS' care are adopted. The rest have to be euthanized because PAWS cannot keep them indefinitely and the capacity of its animal shelter is limited.

PAWS is a private organization that subsists solely on donations. It does not get a single centavo from the Philippine government or any foreign donor like so many useless NGOs. Yet it is doing its best for abandoned pets.

It also tries to educate pet owners. It teaches them and homeowners' associations the proper way of animal control. It helps in anti-rabies vaccinations. It subsidizes neutering and spaying of stray animals.

All these humanitarian activities cost money. And without donations, PAWS won't be able to do all these. *(To be continued)*

'Misunderestimation'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A FRIEND of mine puts it this way. At least Erap was just a movie star and used English as a second (to put it kindly) language. You can expect him to erupt with words like "misunderestimate," "suiciders" and "hopefuller"; mistake "persecute" for "prosecute," " preserve" for "persevere" and an "opportunistic society" for "a society full of opportunity"; and dish out grammatical boners like "he and her" and "I will preserve executive powers for my predecessors."

Erap in fact did **not** commit those errors. Most of the "Eraptions" attributed to him were just that, Eraptions, jokes he himself helped to spread knowing they endeared him to a people who liked to murder English in lieu of the Great White Father. What excuse does George W. Bush have?

I agree with my friend entirely. But it's more than just malapropisms or inability to use the right words. You look at Bush's gaffes (one is tempted to say "giraffes" in the spirit of things)—and the ones I put out last Thursday and Friday are just a small sample from a very long list that dates back to only 2000—and you'll see that wrong words are the least of his worries. The far more alarming things are his massive confusion and even more massive ignorance about the state of the world. How he managed to pass history and social studies, quite apart from high school, is anybody's guess.

Yet this is the man who commands the mightiest army on earth. This is the man who holds the key to the greatest arsenal of weapons of mass destruction the world has ever seen. This is the man who is trying to foist his vision upon the world.

Even T.S. Eliot could probably not have imagined what he said would take on a terribly literal aspect: "This is the way the world ends/ Not with a bang but a whimper."

I don't know how anybody can sleep nights knowing the future of the planet is in the hands of someone who says, "I know what I believe. I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe—I believe what I believe is right." Or who says, "You've also got to measure in order to begin to effect change that's just more—when there's more than talk, there's just actual—a paradigm shift." Or "What I am against is quotas. I am against hard quotas, quotas they basically delineate based upon whatever. However they delineate, quotas, I think vulcanize society. So I don't know how that fits into what everybody else is saying, their relative positions, but that's my position."

These are levels of unintelligibility that reveal a traffic jam in thought processes. It's not just a loss for words, it's a loss of thought. To say that the statements are tautological, or defining a thing by itself, is to edify them. There isn't an inchoate idea in them, or one struggling to be born amid the turmoil in the brain. It's just gibberish.

Well, Bush himself admits the problem in another Bushism he regaled an interviewer with on Air Force One in June this year: "I'm not very analytical. You know I don't spend a lot of time thinking about myself, about why I do things." Doubtless meant to suggest he is spontaneous, his unintended meaning better catches his true character, such as he has one.

But it's a tossup whether he does such things as invade Iraq because he doesn't think much about what he does or whether he does those things simply because he doesn't know any better. Well, maybe there's no contradiction there, maybe he doesn't ask why he does what he does because he doesn't know any better. His statements about other countries certainly suggest so. They indicate a level of ignorance that precipitates mindless action.

It's almost unthinkable for any president, least of all that of the United States, to ask a Brazilian leader: "Do you have blacks, too?" It's almost unthinkable for any president, least of all that of the United States, to keep referring to the UN Security Council as the "United Nations Senate" (he has done so repeatedly). It's almost unthinkable for any president, least of all that of the United States, to think of Yasser Arafat being holed up in Ramallah with German peace protesters, to refer to the Gulf countries as Gulf Coast countries, and to toast a century and a half of US-Japan partnership. Not even Erap makes those mistakes.

You suspect that Bush finds it the easiest thing in the world to embark on reckless adventurism because he really believes the UN is an extension of the American legislature, Latin American populations are predominantly white, the slaves from Africa contributed to American progress because of their love for freedom, the Middle East is somewhere out there, probably in Africa, suicide bombers are primitive cavemen who have no beliefs, the French have no word for entrepreneur and need to be educated, other cultures are inferior to the American one.

Indeed, you suspect that he finds it the easiest thing in the world to go to war because he finds it enough to offer blithe consolation to the kin of the dead. Yet another Bushism: "There's only one person who hugs the mothers and the widows, the wives and the kids upon the death of their loved one. Others hug but having committed the troops, I've got an additional responsibility to hug and that's me and I know what it's like." (Washington, D.C., Dec. 11, 2002) If that's how he values American life, think of how he values the lives of other people.

This was the fellow we greeted with much fanfare the other day, whose path we literally cleared of human flotsam and debris, whose presence we took to be a favor granted to us, whose utterances we clung on to like pearls of wisdom. We have a saying that a man who takes a fool seriously is an even bigger fool. But how call a whole nation that does so?

Ah, but we always misunderestimate ourselves.

No carpers in Thailand

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PHILIPPINE National Police really did a good job of securing President and Mrs. George W. Bush during their eight-hour visit here. The PNP personnel, led by Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, Deputy Director Edgardo Aglipay and National Capital Region Chief Reynaldo Velasco worked very hard, and the nation is grateful that nothing untoward happened last Saturday. Orchids to them.

The task of security, magnified a thousand times, is now the nightmare of the Bangkok police, as 21 leaders of Asia Pacific gather in the Thai capital for the annual Apec summit. Thailand is expected to outdo itself in security as well as in the lavish preparations for the dignitaries. This includes the traditional parade reserved for coronation events. Held after the gala dinner for the world leaders, the parade will feature gilded royal barges down the Chao Phraya River. The barges will be manned by royal Navy oarsmen in gold and red traditional costumes. The preparations are *super-bongga*, but then, the Thais also know that this is a fantastic propaganda opportunity for their tourism industry. And one can be sure there will be no Thai carpers counting each baht spent for the Apec—unlike here, where critics carped at the preparations for Bush, thinking only of the pesos and centavos spent. Very short-sighted indeed.

* * *

I was at the Batasan and in the Palace for the state banquet and the barrio fiesta, and there was nothing outlandish about the preparations. The barrio fiesta featured the multi-colored *pahiyas* decor from Lucban and the typical fiesta buntings, *Pinoy kakanin* and *rondalla* music—everything looked magical and beautiful, but certainly, nothing expensive. It was a pity, though, that the Bush party was delayed in the Batasan and there was a slight drizzle earlier—which necessitated that the guests skip the barrio fiesta. But after the dinner, the weather improved, and the dinner guests, including Senate chief Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, savored the fiesta, sampling the *halo-halo*, dirty ice cream, *puto bungbong* and *bibingka*. Everyone hung around the garden, chatting and feeling quite relieved that no untoward incident happened. By then the Bush party was boarding Air Force One en route to Bangkok. I hope the foreign media caught that distinct Pinoy ambience.

* * *

My good friend Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, complained that President Bush arrived over an hour late for his address before the joint session of Congress. Rosales asked if Bush would dare be late for the American Congress. Doubtless not, considering how most Americans are so particular about punctuality. But in fairness to Bush it was not his fault, as the US Secret Service, which has the ultimate say in matters of security for the US president, refused to allow the Bush convoy to travel through Commonwealth Avenue—where the protesters were massed in front of the Ever Gotesco—until a reasonable passage was assured. The option to fly him by chopper, which was never an attractive alternative for the Secret Service in the first place, was fast being eliminated by the darkening afternoon. What the PNP ultimately did was to create a wall between the road and the protesters by parking a phalanx of six-by-six trucks between them, thus opening up some lanes. As Bush was about to pass, the PNP threw down some canvas so Bush and the militants could not see each other.

* * *

As my husband and I were entering the security booth in the Palace grounds, there was a slight commotion. It turned out that the American security men wanted to frisk Senators Aquilino Pimentel and John Osmeña, but Pimentel objected loudly, saying he would never be frisked by foreigners in his own country. Then he turned around and walked away, and Osmeña followed him. By that time, his wife Bing Pimentel had already submitted herself to the electronic check by a Filipino security. The Filipino ranking officer in the booth overruled the US personnel, stressing that the two men were senators. A Palace lady staffer ran after Pimentel and assured him he wouldn't be frisked anymore. The senators agreed to proceed to the Palace, even as I overheard the two Americans arguing, with one saying, "I thought we were supposed to check out everyone." In the commotion, my husband and I were not checked.

I can understand Senator Pimentel's concern, but so do I understand the Secret Service's, especially with all the terrorism threats in the air. Later, Senator Osmeña explained to me that when the senators were deliberating on the joint Senate-House resolution inviting Bush to address Congress, he raised this objection about frisking by the US security. Senate Chief Drilon assured the senators this wouldn't happen, but that evening there was an obvious failure of coordination.

* * *

The UP Manila is inviting all graduates of its colleges and institutes at the Padre Faura-Pedro Gil-Taft Avenue campus to a grand alumni homecoming this Friday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club Ballroom. UP Manila needs the assistance of its alumni in many projects meant to benefit the campus' students. All alumni are enjoined to attend. The colleges involved in the homecoming are arts and sciences, allied medical professions, dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and public health, while the institutes involved are the National Teacher Training Center for the Health Profession, Philippine General Hospital and the National Institute of Health. For inquiries, please call UP College of Arts and Sciences Dean Malu Nicolas, Tel. No. 536-5862.

Muslim women and the law

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MARY Rose was 46, married with three children ages from 3 to 12, when she filed for a divorce from her husband of many years.

A resident of Zamboanga City, she left her family in 1996 to work as a domestic in Dubai. She enjoyed her work and found that her Muslim employers treated her well. After two years' stay with her employer's family, she became attracted to the Islamic faith. After a vacation with her family in the Philippines, she returned to Dubai where she embraced Islam and got the Muslim name of Jamelah, an Arabic term which means "beautiful," particularly apt in her case.

Upon finding out that his wife had turned Muslim, Mary Rose's husband wrote her to say she had committed a big mistake and that this development reinforced his determination to no longer live with her. He asserted that he would not allow himself to become a Muslim and declared he didn't want to have anything to do with her anymore.

In her petition, Mary Rose said that even before she left to work abroad, she and her husband had been having frequent quarrels that sometimes led to physical violence and short-lived separations. She also alleged that her husband had begun living with another woman shortly after she left for Dubai. For this reason, she said, reconciliation was no longer possible. She filed a petition for divorce by "faskh" or by action of a Shari'a court, in 1998, on grounds of her husband's neglect or failure to provide support for the family and his committing concubinage.

While he denied having an illicit affair and stated that he tried to reconcile with Mary Rose, the husband said he was willing to turn over custody of the children to his wife, and that he would no longer raise any objections should Mary Rose want to marry another man. The marriage was thus dissolved that year by the Shari'a Circuit Court of Isabela, Basilan.

Today, Mary Rose says she is "contented and happy." She began a small business with money she had saved from her stint in Dubai. Most of her time is now devoted to her children, who are all going to school.

* * *

MARY Rose's predicament is one many Filipino migrant women workers, including Flor Contemplacion, have faced and continue to face. But while most of them have no choice but to live with the fiction of an intact marriage even as their husbands cheat on them while they're away, Mary Rose had the option of divorcing her husband and planning a life without him.

Whenever I take part in meetings or dialogues with Muslim women, someone is bound to raise the question of the "oppression" of women by Islam. Invariably, one of the Muslims will issue the challenge: How free are Christian women really? Can you divorce your husbands?

The reality is that divorce is not an option for Filipino women, except Muslims. So who are we, Christian women, to feel sorry for our Muslim sisters when they enjoy more rights than we?

But as other Muslim women also admit, while divorce is possible for them, it is viewed only as a last desperate measure, so strong is the stigma against it. Perhaps Mary Rose had such a quick favorable outcome on her petition only because her Christian husband disparaged her religion. So while the formal recognition of the Code of Muslim Personal Laws grants them the special leeway of divorce, it's a privilege rarely availed of.

* * *

IN 1977, in an attempt to appease Muslim separatists, a "Code of Muslim Personal Laws" was enacted under the Marcos regime, to be administered by the Shari'a courts. But because it was promulgated before the adoption of the 1987 Constitution, which provides for the equality of men and women under the law, a case can be made for studying whether, under the CMPL, "Muslim women enjoy the same women's rights that have been won by the women's movement worldwide and in the Philippines."

In 1988, writes Isabelita "Bing" Solamo-Antonio, executive director of the Pilipina Legal Resources Center Inc., they conducted a survey on "the extent of usage, attitudes, aspirations and behavior of Muslim women in relation to the (CMPL)." Among their findings was that the majority of Muslim women were not familiar with their legal rights. But while the lack of awareness and knowledge of their rights might easily be addressed, Solamo-Antonio says the "greater problem… is that women's lack of autonomy is largely cultural and justified by invoking customary laws and religious traditions. Yet, Islam, like most religions, is or should be liberating."

With funding from such partners as the Canadian International Development Agency, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation and Asia Foundation, the PLRC embarked on a "Shari'a Court Watch Project" to monitor the implementation of the code and the performance of the Shari'a courts. The findings of the project, as well as the stories of Muslim women and men who have dealt with the Shari'a system are told in the book "The Shari'a Courts in the Philippines: Women, Men and Muslim Personal Laws," launched last week.

* * *

IN HER foreword, Dean Carmen Abubakar of the UP Institute of Islamic Studies states that while other studies have focused on the development and substantive provisions of the code, "few studies have placed focus on the gender component of the law and its implementation."

This is why the PLRC study is timely, she says, "because women are increasingly becoming aware of how the law can affect their lives either negatively or positively. Such awareness is important because it makes the law suddenly come alive to its women clients."

Are Filipino Muslim women better off under the regime of the code? This is one question we'll seek to answer in tomorrow's column.

Early Portuguese voyages to the Philippines

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE WAY I remember the story is that Fernao Magalhaes, a Portuguese captain, was sailing around looking for the Spice Islands when, lo and behold, he landed in Mindanao. It certainly sounds more exciting than to say that 10 years earlier the navigator was in Malacca, where his brother-in-law was working and where a community of 500 Filipinos (our original OFWs, I guess) existed, as well as two Filipino merchants, one of whom was running his own plantation. Surely, in the course of conversation, since this was the Age of Exploration, the islands to the north of the route between the Moluccas and Malacca (that's us) would have been mentioned as still "unexplored" by Europeans.

This is pure speculation, of course. What isn't is that the earliest and first European map of the Philippines was done by Francisco Rodriguez, a Portuguese and pilot of the Great Governor of India, Alfonso de Albuquerque in 1512, nine years before the arrival of Fernao (a.k.a. Fernando de Magallanes and Ferdinand Magellan). Since Magellan was a professional navigator and ship captain, it's not difficult to believe that he would have known about the map.

Apparently there is a book that the present Portuguese Ambassador to Manila Joao da Silva will launch at the University of Santo Tomas on Oct. 21, "The Philippines in the Portuguese Chronicles of the Sixteenth Century," concerning Portuguese voyages to the Philippines at about the same time as Magellan's. The Portuguese were, of course, endeavoring to consolidate their domination in the East especially with regard to Spain. Eventually they would also be contending with the Dutch and the British, not to mention the French.

The Philippines was looked upon as a source of food by the Portuguese, but their main interest was the cloves they obtained in the Moluccas though their outpost there was limited. Consequently, they did not have the manpower necessary to explore surrounding islands. Eventually some contact was made by Joao da Canha Pinto in 1535 who verified the lack of gold and spices, followed by Francisco de Castro in the same year. This was a few years before they established relations with Japan in the 1540s. (Two items of interest should be mentioned here. One is that if the contact was in Mindanao, Butuan was in existence and its gold was extensive; and so the report is odd. The other was Miguel Lopez de Legaspi's notary, Fernando Riquel, who mentions the presence of Portuguese as reported by the natives.)

Simao de Abreu, a cousin of Antonio de Brito, a captain in the Moluccas, was sent to discover the route from Borneo to Malacca in 1545. The islands of Menado (Sulawesi) and Panguensara were sighted. He then went through the strait of Dantreminao and Taguina, believed to be the strait between the islands of Mindanao and Basilan, to the islands of Sao Miguel (Cagayan, Sulu) and from thence to Borneo.

According to another account, Francisco de Castro was also sent in 1538 by Antonio Galvao with orders to "convert as many as possible to Christianity." Upon his arrival in Mindanao, six kings were baptized, along with their wives, children and subjects. Galvao had most of them named Ioannes, in memory of the Portuguese king.

After De Castro left Ternate, he encountered such a terrible weather that he had to sail wherever the winds took him. After some days, he landed on an island he called Satigano (believed to be Saranggani) where the people and the king were gentiles. A blood compact was supposed to have been effected between the two. They also drank each other's blood, according to the account. The king converted to Christianity, as did his wife and one of the children, three of the king's brothers and many noblemen and peasants.

After 22 days, De Castro again set sail and reached the banks of a river in a place called Soligano (could be Surigao or Siargau), where the king and his queen were also converted as well as two of his daughters and many others.

The clincher is that on that same island, he also converted to Christianity the king of Butuano whom they called King John the Great, and the king of Pimilarano (from Dumankilas), also christened John, and the king of Camisino, who was called King Francis. "Thus were also converted to Christianism the wives and children of these kings, and many of their subjects."

Antonio Galvao recorded a trip to Borneo made by a Pero Fidalgo, another Portuguese, on a junk. The seamen sought shelter on an island which they named Lucoes, since that was how the inhabitants called themselves. On a Portuguese map from around 1560, a caption reads: "coast of Lucois and Laos, along which Pero Fidalgo traveled on his return from Borneo on a Chinese junk; he sailed along this coast in a storm and came upon Lamao."

The bibliography on the history of the Philippines in these early centuries generally centers on Spanish sources, but if the country is serious about writing a new history, both Portuguese and Mexican sources, not to mention Southeast Asian, should be examined as well. If you're wondering why there isn't any mention of these early Portuguese voyages in the Spanish chronicles, remember that there was the Treaty of Tordesillas which gave the Portuguese, and not the Spaniards, the right to colonize the Philippines.

(*From Jose Manuel Garcia, "The Beginning of Relations Between Portugal and the Philippines."*)

Colors and words

YOUNG BLOOD

Marianna Alfa G. Fernando

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I LOVED to paint. I used to produce three paintings a day, using a medley of style and color. I painted landscapes, still lifes, abstract portraits—anything and everything under the sun. My paintings may have looked insignificant placed alongside Amorsolos and Malangs but in the eyes of my friends, they were pretty good.

I loved to write. I used to write essays and short stories and poems and had them published. I contributed to newspapers, magazines and websites and even got a part-time writing job. My teachers and editor encouraged me to pursue this career path, but I refused. For me, writing could never be a viable source of livelihood.

Then I lost all the inspiration to do these things. I cannot pinpoint exactly when or why it happened, I just found myself staring at blank canvasses and blank computer screens whenever I sat down and tried to do what I used to love doing. Facing the computer meant working on spreadsheets and presentations for me. Holding paper and pen meant drafting reports and signing check and requests for messengerial services. I started leaving the house before the sun rose to enter a stiff, windowless office, getting out only when the sun had already set. My free time suddenly lost its usually colorful moments, replaced by thoughts about the office, sleeping, eating or watching television.

I began to miss my craft. My computer started to fill up with half-finished essays containing my thoughts. I opened a tube of my favorite brand of acrylic paint and felt frustrated to see that the paint had dried. My pastel creations ended as random doodles.

So I gave up. I never again opened a new document unless it was to write a monthly progress report. I put my easel in the store room and gathered all my paints and brushes and stashed them under my bed. I didn't have time for all that, I told myself. I'll just take up a hobby again when I start earning really, really well.

I immersed myself in my daily routine: Get out of bed. Bathe. Go to office. Go home. Watch TV. Sleep. Throw in a few late night outs, but I still felt like I was losing my former self.

I started to miss school. My friends and the old boring routine back in college didn't seem so boring after I experienced the "real world." I wasn't as bubbly and as active as before, and, worse, I was gaining too much weight. No matter how early I slept the night before, I had to drag myself out of bed the next day before letting myself be swept away by my schedule for the day. The real world was not fun anymore.

I wanted to turn back. I wanted to stop whatever I was doing and return to the former me. But I knew that dwelling on past happiness and memories would get me nowhere, and most likely bring me a disastrous future.

So how do I rediscover my former self? I can't just go back to school. I can't—and I won't—rekindle the flame with an ex (haha!). Maybe I can start reading a good book? Yes, I told myself, that's what I'll do.

So there I was, browsing through books, when something caught my eye. It was a 12-piece acrylic paint set. The quality of the set was surely not anywhere near my old ones, but still the colors screamed at me. As if called by an old friend, my head snapped to attention and right before me stood racks and racks of colors and palettes. It was as if they were shining brightly and calling out to me, "Welcome back!" I felt the old thrill of holding new paints and brushes. I couldn't wait to get home.

I worked hard that night, forgetting the fact that I had to wake up at 5:30 the next morning. It had the same feeling as someone who is trying to catch up on stories with an old friend, gossiping until morning. I assembled my easel and made a mess in my room. The clocked ticked on, but I was fired up.

At 3 a.m., I finished the painting. I stared at it, I stared at my hands and the colorful mess in my room. With a big smile on my face, I realized that I was back.

I call that morning "the morning after." The morning after I met up with my old self again and was reminded that life need not be too stressful and how little things can make big differences. I did sleep late, but it was not because of work! It was because I did something I loved. I never felt so fired up in months.

That morning I tackled complicated spreadsheets and breezed through deadlines, but at the back of mind, there stood my new painting. Indeed, I had reconciled with my former passions.

Now, I guess I have rediscovered my love for writing as well. Earlier, as I opened a new document in my computer, the words wouldn't stop coming. They are coming more slowly now as I reach the end of this composition.

I guess it's up to the reader to judge whether I still have the flair for writing or not. But I am sure of one thing: I missed this. And I am quite certain that from now on more colors and words will be flowing from me again.

Marianna Alfa G. Fernando, 21, works as a project assistant of the Ayala Young Leaders Program, Ayala Foundation Inc.

THEY SAID

Bigger picture

"I just want to call the attention of the Senate because we quibble over the reading of the journal, but somehow we forget the bigger picture about those in high places."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo, urging his colleagues to stop petty squabbles and to attend to more serious concerns

Least evil

"He's the least evil, for the simple reason that he has not yet been given a chance to hold sensitive government positions."

—Exiled leftist leader Jose Ma. Sison on presidential aspirant, former Education Secretary Raul Roco

A son's love

"It doesn't matter if my father doesn't love me. I still love him."

—Seven-year-old Kenneth Villa, stricken by a rare disease and abandoned by both parents

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Home from the war

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

BECAUSE Baltimore's near a military base, it's not unusual to find soldiers waiting at the city's airport for their flights. But last Thursday, when I had to catch a flight there, I was taken aback to find the airport swarming with men and women in uniform.

They weren't armed but I still felt anxious, especially with the public address system playing, over and over again, a taped announcement warning people to watch their bags and take extra security precautions. The reminder is standard in all American airports but in Baltimore, they'd end the announcement by thanking the public for "understanding the need for the precautions in these times."

In these times. The feeling I had was that these were times of war. Then I had to remind myself there is indeed a war, except that the battle lines are out in Iraq.

I was to get another reminder as I queued up for the security check. At one point I turned back and caught the eyes of one of the soldiers. It's one of those gut feelings you have when you're overseas: you see someone in a crowd and you know immediately that the person is Filipino. The soldier smiled and I nodded back, now certain he was Pinoy.

I would have wanted to ask him where he was flying to but he was too far back in the line. The American in front of him did ask, eventually, and I could hear his reply, "We came in from Baghdad."

I remembered that the previous day's New York Times had a front-page article about the US government bringing home more soldiers for 15-day furloughs, in response to their sinking morale.

It's not surprising the soldiers, and their families; have been feeling so low. The United States invaded Iraq in March and by May, a proud George W. Bush declared victory. Saddam Hussein had fallen and most of Iraq was now occupied by the Americans and British. It seemed the soldiers would be home soon.

It turns out that Bush's declaration of victory was only the beginning of America's nightmare, somewhat like Dewey's battle with Spanish forces at Manila Bay in 1898. It was won almost bloodlessly, but only ushered in a decade-long Philippine-American war that took several more thousand Filipino and American lives.

Between March and Oct. 18 this year, 338 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq, 103 of them after May 1, when Bush declared victory. More than 1,500 soldiers have been wounded in the war, with Iraqi attacks now becoming more frequent. Last Saturday alone, there were 15 armed encounters between US soldiers and Iraqis.

Yesterday's Washington Post said there are at present some 130,000 US troops in Iraq. That's about the size of the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines. The Washington Post reports that there are plans to reduce the number but this will be quite slow, with an estimated 100,000 US troops to remain in Iraq next year.

Who are these soldiers? The ones I saw in Baltimore's airport were mostly very young, and like our Pinoy, from minority groups, mostly African-American and Hispanic. My American friends tell me most of the soldiers are from low-income households.

The New York Times article I mentioned focused on the furlough of Juan Castillo, a 21-year-old Latino. The front-page photograph showed him with his 19-year-old wife, April, and their son, Juan Jr., born while the father was in Iraq.

The New York Times followed Castillo through his first 12 days of furlough. The first day he talked about his plans, of catching a football game, "a swig of tequila with his boys, quality time with the wife and kid, maybe even sky diving."

The days that followed had him spending much of his time with his family and visiting friends. He had gone back to his high school with a gift for his school's police officer: an Iraqi police patch.

We hear Castillo describing how he wanted to make the most of his furlough. I'm sure our overseas workers can relate to Castillo talking about trying not to sleep too much, of savoring "each kiss from his wife, each minute with the baby, each inch of his bed and each sip of Mountain Dew." He also talked about what it was like in Iraq, about how he'd fainted from heat exhaustion, about getting pelted with rocks, doing night patrols in the desert and mainly, of boredom.

We are told Castillo's favorite word for describing Iraq is "madness." And we sense he is, too, mad at times: "We haven't found anything, no weapons of mass destruction, no Saddam, no nothing. And the people there hate us... We're conquerors to them. It wasn't supposed to be like that."

The furloughs are still experimental. The generals probably know this could backfire, bringing young soldiers home for a few days, only to be flown back to the battlefield. During the Vietnam War, American GIs were let loose in Bangkok, Manila or Honolulu for rest and recreation, but not back to the US mainland. There's talk now that the soldiers assigned to Iraq could be sent to Europe instead for their breaks, rather than back to the United States where a reunion with their families could be be more painful.

The plane I took from Baltimore was headed for Detroit, a Northwest Airlines hub where people connect to other flights. As we were about to land, the stewardess announced that the plane was packed with soldiers on furlough, all heading for home. She asked passengers to give them a round of applause.

I clapped, too, thinking of Castillo and the Pinoy at Baltimore's airport, wishing them well—them and their fellow soldiers, their families and friends. I hope, too, that someday soon, they'll be able to come home from the war, and not have to go back.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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'Cha-cha' will not assure better life

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

WHY are the congressmen in a hurry to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly? And why are they hell-bent on shifting from presidential to parliamentary system?

During the martial law years, the Constitution was amended for a shift to a parliamentary form of government. With this change from presidential to parliamentary system, the Filipinos saw no changes in governance. The graft and corruption nurtured in the early days of the dictator mushroomed when the executive and legislative branches of government merged under the parliamentary system, thereby abolishing the time-honored checks and balances.

Not only that, in the parliamentary system, the government is so shaky that in a vote of confidence by the members of parliament (MPs), the prime minister could unexpectedly be ousted. And since every MP is qualified to be prime minister, election among them might be more often than expected. Just like in other parliamentary form of governments, a no-confidence vote from the MPs could change the whole setup, thus making the government unstable. With our economy now at its lowest ebb, constitutional change is no guarantee that it would alleviate the sufferings of our less fortunate brethren.

At best, Senate President Franklin Drilon was right in his statement that the "Senate was not inclined to allow a constituent assembly and would insist on a constitutional convention." (PDI, 9/22/03) And in a press conference, he further said that "The Senate cannot be stampeded into agreeing to a constitutional assembly or a transitional presidency by pressure from other political sectors." (PDI, 9/23/03)

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
J.P. Rizal Street,
Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte

The fearlessness of John Paul II

IF there is one contribution that stands out in Pope John Paul II's pontificate, for me it is the challenge of fearlessness that he posed to the world—the fearlessness that he himself had lived and continues to exemplify. "Do not be afraid" has been his underlining motto as he urges us not to fear pain and suffering, faith and reason, gift and dawn of life, the risks of peace. When he reached the 25th year of his papacy on Oct. 22, the world renewed its resolve to brave through this whirlwind of life, fortified by the sturdy leadership of a fearless Pope.

Old, ailing and weak—yes, we can say that of him, but also of any person who is 83 years in age, battling Parkinson's and other diseases, surviving an assassination and undergoing several surgeries. Well, if a person wants to be simplistic and pessimistic about it, then his perspective would understandably end there. However, we can learn from the testimonies of the people who work and stay with him. He keeps an active daily schedule in order to undertake the volume of work before him: daily audiences, intense study, discussions, an immense and wide range of pastoral work and responsibilities for a person holding the highest moral authority. All these carried out with an undiminished wit and a sense of humor. He doesn't even have "weekends" in his vocabulary. That beats most of us who are three times younger than he is. Who can say now that he does not have the condition to still be in charge?

So much talk has been made about a possible resignation, stepping down, ending one's term, as if we are referring to a political reality. However, many people are missing out the distinct characteristic of the papacy—a vocation given by God himself. This is what makes a pope a pope, and not just the votation and installation by a college of cardinals.

Thank God that John Paul II continues to give himself to us. It is true that we would love the pope whoever he may be or he will be. But it cannot also be denied that it is very easy to love the present one. Charismatic, zealous, fearless—this is the Pope we have now. His physical limitations have become an instrument rather than an obstacle. And nothing will make him afraid, and neither shall we.

—MIHLGRACE M. SAMONTEZA,
25 Scout Reyes St.,
Roxas District, Quezon City

No people's protectors

I HAVE read about the help Ramon Tulfo extended to the case of Ricardo Romualdo. May I personally extend my wholehearted congratulations and full support for his noble cause.

As a lawyer from the Public Attorney's Office assigned to a special drugs court for almost six years, I can personally attest that arresting officers are fond of fabricating or planting evidence. In my estimate, about 90 percent of the accused in the branch where I am assigned belong to low-income families and the drugs involved are a pittance. Almost all of them are my clients and detention prisoners. I pity these people as they are uneducated, earning very little.

With the enactment of the 2002 Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Law (RA 9165), the penalty for "drug violations" has been increased. So is the recommended bail. For mere possession of shabu regardless of the quantity, e.g, 0.01 gram, the recommended bail is P200,000. How can poor people post bail for their temporary liberty? For drug-pushing, regardless of the quantity, no bail is recommended. Although in some cases the accused are acquitted, just imagine the sufferings they experience while under detention. One told me that a day inside the city jail is like a day in hell.

Congress should review RA 9165. This law is not a solution to the drug menace. It just creates another problem. At the rate law enforcers are abusing their authority, time will come when all jails in the country will be full of prisoners accused of RA 9165 violations. I find the law anti-poor because of its provision on excessive bail.

As a defense attorney, it would be difficult to defend poor people because of the long-abused doctrine of "the presumption of regularity in the performance of public duty as police officers." Worse, no willing witness or neighbor has the guts to testify against the police in favor of the accused for fear for their lives. I believe this presumption is no longer true, unlike in those days when policemen were looked upon by the masses as their protectors.

—WILLIE T. STA. ANA,
Public Attorney's Office, QC

Legarda's better urges

SEN. Loren Legarda made a major political decision this month, in a short declaration of independence that was about civility and grace. The INQUIRER reacted with an editorial—venom couched as a newspaper's soul.

The editorial unleashed a torrent of bitter words, twisting the sense of the gracious declaration to support an unfathomable anti-Loren bias. The editorial writer made sure that each sentence had the impact of a sledgehammer.

The INQUIRER would have preferred the senator to speak of naked ambition and vulgar political lusting which, according to the editorial, would have been more "candid and direct."

Trash the party. Hit former party colleagues below the belt. Yield to the temptation of a scorned fishwife. Write down a laundry list of grievances. This was what the editorial writer clamored for— cheap politics fit for the scandal sheets.

The editorial also asked the senator to reveal her true self, the "plain inside." I will. More, I can even tell you about her urges.

This is the urge to take risks (the forested mountains are no bother), to help free military men held captive by the rebels.

This is to stand her ground on the Visiting Forces Agreement, with determination and without fanfare.

This is to adopt street children, give them a home, hope and a certain future.

This is to talk about political civility and grace, in a context that defines trash and fishwife talk as candid and direct. And kind words as "nausea."

When shall we realize that some public leaders—Senator Legarda for one—do have kind, not necessarily vehement, intentions?

—BETTINA FERNANDEZ,
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Militants press ouster of GSIS head

CALAMBA CITY—The militant labor group Partido ng Manggagawa has called on government workers to intensify protests to convince President Macapagal-Arroyo to oust the beleaguered head of the Government Service Insurance System.

"GSIS president Winston Garcia is evidently a sacred cow for the Arroyo administration. And his retention at the helm of GSIS gives credence to allegations that he is one of the fundraisers for GMA's electoral bid next year," PM-Laguna chair Ferdie Perez told the INQUIRER.

But the President, in reports from Bangkok where she was attending the Apec summit, said she was just giving Garcia time to air his side and did not necessarily order his retention.

"There is no sense in hanging a sword of Damocles over his head as he is trying to argue his case," the President was quoted as saying.

Garcia is being investigated by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission for cash advances of P3.4 million, which were made in the first five months that he was in office and without proper authorization.

Perez claimed that in the track record of Garcia at the GSIS, he has not displayed the expertise of a fund manager who could strike a balance between the welfare of public employees and the necessity to keep the GSIS afloat.

"Yet, he is evidently indispensable for GMA," Perez, union president of Arcya Glass Corp. here, said.

He cited the anomalous loan of P1 billion granted by the GSIS to the Public Estates Authority for the construction of the controversial Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

Garcia was reported to have been retained by Ms Macapagal after allegedly taking up the blame for the mistakes that led to thousands of GSIS members not getting their loans and other benefits. He reportedly admitted that the delays in loan and pension releases were the agency's fault and assured GSIS members of the fund's sound financial footing.

PM party-list representative Renato Magtubo also called on public sector workers to heighten the protest against Garcia.

He also pushed for the institution of reforms in the GSIS.

"In the past few months, state workers were left at the mercy of loan sharks and pawnshops as GSIS failed on its mandate to provide benefits for the public sector," Magtubo said in a statement.

He likewise appealed to unions in the private sector to support the struggle of state workers through militant mass actions. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

RECIPIENTS of the

10th Johnson & Johnson Outstanding Midwives Award of the Philippines

1994 - 2003

The Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Inc. in cooperation with the Johnson & Johnson affiliate companies in the Philippines announces this year's ten (10) most outstanding midwives in its nationwide search for the Johnson & Johnson Outstanding Midwives Award of the Philippines.

Now on its tenth year, the awards program aims to recognize the important role of midwives in providing for the basic health care needs of Filipino families. It also intends to honor outstanding midwives in their noblest acts of caring not only for millions of mothers and infants but for the children and the elderly, especially in the remote areas of the country.

The awardees were chosen for their exceptional services as frontline health workers in their respective communities, attending to the needs of the families with great dedication and skill, and at times, beyond the call of duty.

The Johnson & Johnson Outstanding Midwives Award of the Philippines is sponsored by Johnson & Johnson (Philippines), Inc.; Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines; and Janssen Pharmaceutica in line with these companies' continuing commitment to maternal and child health care in the country.

Each of the awardees will receive P20,000 in cash, a trophy, an awardee pin, a special midwife's bag, a one-year supply of Johnson & Johnson products, free registration, round-trip transportation and accommodations during the IMAP annual convention in Tagaytay City from October 21 to 24, 2003.

Mrs. Josephine K. Bay-ed, 47
Baguio City, Benguet
The SARS Fighter

- Gives lectures and information dissemination on the nature of SARS and the precautionary measures needed as a member of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Speakers Bureau of Baguio Health Department.
- Initiated the establishment of community clinic assemblies in 2 barangays where health services like medical consultation, child health, and family planning are made easily accessible.
- Actively coordinated with Plan International Baguio in initiating efforts towards the achievement of a community-based health program.

Mrs. Minda O. Javier, 42
Katangawan, General Santos City
Initiator of the Spot Map

- Initiated the Clean and Green Program in her purok where it became the most productive purok in Barangay Katangawan. This purok boasts of 100% sealed toilets and of its clean and green environment.
- Spearheaded establishment of a herbal garden where the community benefits greatly at times when no medicine is available.
- Initiated the usage of a "spot map" since 1985 to easily monitor the health status of all the households in her area.

Mrs. Lorna A. Bustamante, 33
Sariaya, Quezon
The Childbirth Educator

- Formulated a module on Childbirth Education to improve maternal health programs which had been adopted by other barangay health stations, earning for the Sariaya rural health unit a Matching Grant Program from Sentrong Sigla of the DOH.
- Advocated and organized an exercise program to prevent cardiovascular diseases.
- Initiated the establishment of a Maternity Lying-in clinic which provided clean facilities during childbirth to a significant number of women in the barangay.
- Established a *Botica sa Barangay* to provide affordable medicines for the marginalized sector.

Mrs. Rhodora L. Lopez, 52
Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila
The Health Crusader

- The only midwife to implement Primary Health Care in Muntinlupa City by organizing the community and initiating health team activities.
- Led the Family Health Cluster which resulted in high performance marks in prenatal, post natal, EPI and dental programs.
- Conceptualized and implemented "Tulong" – a program that put up barangay health stations in every depressed area in the city.
- Spearheaded Garantisadong Pambata, a program for children's nutrition in Alabang Health Center.

Mrs. Gertrudis A. Calzada, 64
Cebu City, Cebu
The Environmentalist

- As president of IMAP Cebu Chapter, she conducts well-attended scientific seminars for the whole province of Cebu.
- Initiated the Midwives Fun Day at the Beach being implemented in 6 districts.
- Lobbied for the environmental sanitation program which resulted in the construction of sanitary toilet facilities.
- Coordinated with the Cebu chapter of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Services in conducting seminars on Safe Motherhood.

Ms. Rodela P. Robles, 49
Jordan, Guimaras
The Nutrition Specialist

- Conducts Purok Household Teaching Classes covering topics such as maternal and child health, communicable and non-communicable diseases and environmental sanitation.
- Mobilized the community to support the Clean and Green Program of the government by launching the Search for a Healthy Home.
- Established a supplementary feeding center which succeeded in reducing the incidence of 2nd and 3rd degree malnutrition among pre-schoolers.

Mrs. Noemi D. Francisco, 50
Sariaya, Quezon
Champion of Family Health Care

- Organized the Child Birth Education Class in her area where expectant mothers and their husbands are given lectures on pregnancy and childbirth.
- Spearheaded the "Pabasa sa Nutrisyon" to promote proper nutrition and health in the family.
- Established the Family Health Care Workers in her barangay where she trained each member of the family to safeguard their health. She also promoted herbal gardening/medicine as an alternative remedy for minor illnesses.

Mrs. Filipina C. Unay, 68
Paranas, Samar
Promoter of Education

- Trained barangay health workers as facilitators on the Female Functional Literacy Program covering topics on maternal and child health services.
- Provided support for her barangay's income generating projects and Farmer's Association which made it the "Show Window" of Region 8.
- Conducts scientific sessions in her province so that midwives will be updated technically on the proper management of maternal and child health services.
- Conducts community assemblies during barangay visitations in order to educate residents on different health issues.

Mrs. Vilma C. Gaurana, 54
Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat
The Health Initiator

- Organized mothers' classes to educate pregnant mothers on quality pre-natal care and proper planning in alleviating poverty, and to teach them how to maximize resources of their area specifically in using medicinal plants in cases where medicine is scarce.
- Implemented Clean and Green initiatives in her barangay.
- Educated the town folks on medical techniques in remote areas which earned her the high regard of the community.

Mrs. Rose B. Wangdali, 46
Sabangan, Mountain Province
Advocate for Proper Hygiene

- Established 3 *Botica sa Barangay* in her catchment areas and launched the installation of water sealed toilets in several schools.
- Organized the *Ob-Obon di Inin-an Di Ambasing* (ONIDA), a bayanihan system for mothers, to be able to provide health, financial and other forms of assistance to members.
- Conducted weekly visits to the barangays and sitios in Sagada which encouraged barangay officials, barangay health workers and parents to establish two sub-clinics for various sitios.
- Organized "Operation Ligo" for primary school students in order to conduct physical check-ups easily.

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Mindanao gov't men remain restless over mess at GSIS

DAVAO CITY—Government employees in Mindanao are restive over the continued delay or nonprocessing of loans by the Government Service Insurance System as they vowed to support calls to oust state insurance chief Winston Garcia.

Felix Cabuguas, chair of the Confederation of Independent Unions (CIU)-Mindanao, said 50 chapter unions are now mobilizing almost 8,000 members in Mindanao to press for an investigation of GSIS and the ouster of Garcia. *(See related story on Page A15.)*

The CIU in Cotabato and Socsargen area are scheduled to stage a picket at the local GSIS offices.

The 3,000-strong Davao City Hall Employees Association (DACHEA), however, is not keen on staging a mass leave but is working with GSIS to identify the chokepoints in the processing of loans and retirement benefits.

It has earlier raised concern over the underpayment and no payment status of premiums that appeared in their certification of remittances or contributions to the state insurance system.

Cabuguas said GSIS has been telling employees that delays in the processing are due to the new computerization system.

Record obtained from the GSIS showed that collectibles from local government units alone amounted to more than P3 billion.

In 1995, GSIS has a collectible of about P931 million. Payment was made amounting to P180 million with a balance of P751 million.

In 1997, collectibles were P2.76 billion.

The GSIS central office is reportedly negotiating for a settlement with the Department of Budget and Management in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement the GSIS has entered into with the DBM and the Bureau of Treasury on May 23, 2001.

Earlier in Pangasinan, government workers were stood up by GSIS officials led by Garcia because it was unsafe for the officials to take a helicopter ride to a meeting with the workers. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE WORLD IS MINE
Bwa!ha!ha!ha!

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

THE OTHER BUSH
Protesters in Davao City make a mockery of an image of what they said was the real US President George W. Bush whose eight-hour state visit to the Philippines stirred debate in a country that seems to be embroiled in its favorite pastime—talk, a lot of it.

Safety of P2.7-B dike doubted

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A disaster management group on Thursday called for a "thorough evaluation" of the safety of the FVR Megadike a day after the Sandiganbayan suspended for 90 days acting Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez.

Soriquez supervised the construction of the 56-km lahar-catching structure four years ago.

The Central Luzon Center for Emergency and Rehabilitation (Concern) said the suspension revived suspicions that corruption attended the P2.7-billion project.

The project's original budget was only P1.3 billion during the Ramos administration.

Soriquez led the emergency and rehabilitation project management offices of the DPWH in 1996 or six years after Mt. Pinatubo's eruption. He also headed the department's program on foreign-funded projects.

The transverse dike, built in the middle of the megadike to reduce the force of lahar downstream of the Pasig-Potrero River, breached several weeks after its inauguration in August 1997.

Soriquez, in an earlier interview with reporters in Pampanga, denied he directly supervised government engineers in the field. He also denied that he made the dike's design.

In a statement, Concern urged the Sandiganbayan to punish whoever was responsible for the waste in public funds through the faulty design, wrong construction and the subsequent damage on the transverse dike.

The group also urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to order an independent evaluation of the safety and integrity of the structure.

Thousands of residents in this city and Bacolor, Guagua, Sta. Rita and Porac towns re-established their communities inside and outside the dike. A wide area had been cultivated as farms and fishponds.

"The dike creates a sense of security among the local folk but several breaching incidents, the erosions and the continuing fortification of the dike say that it is not totally strong to withstand future lahar flows or floodwaters," Concern said.

A 100-meter section on the dike's Porac side, which was armored with concrete, was severely eroded after slight rains last year.

Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo, a marine geologist who had monitored the megadike, had raised concern for the safety of people and properties on the eastern side, notably in this city. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Danding ally holds tight to Lakas post in Negros

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Rep. Jacinto Paras has refuted news reports from Manila that he has been stripped of the presidency of Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats in Negros Oriental.

Paras said that he had received assurances from Speaker Jose de Venecia, Lakas-CMD president, that he has not been replaced.

Newspaper reports last week quoted Presidential Liaison for Political Affairs Joey Rufino as saying that Paras had been replaced by Rep. Herminio Teves as party chair for Negros Oriental because Paras supports the planned presidential bid of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

"That was just a misrepresentation made by a minor clerk," Paras said, referring to Rufino.

He said De Venecia, who is the new Lakas-CMD president, told him that nothing has changed with the Lakas in Negros Oriental.

"He told me that the other people who have said that I have been replaced don't speak for the party," Paras said.

Paras said regional party chair Ernesto Hererra also wanted him to stay put. "They're not blaming me for supporting Danding," Paras said.

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RICARDO CARDINAL J. VIDAL
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Iloilo docs lead war on planned coal plant

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BANATE, Iloilo—Warning of serious environmental and health hazards, doctors in Iloilo have urged the scrapping of a plan to put up a 100-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Banate town, 54 kilometers north of Iloilo City.

Cardiologist Louie Tirador said a growing number of doctors are actively opposing the plan because of its perceived serious effects on residents.

"Generations will be affected and as doctors, we opt for the prevention of illnesses," Tirador told the INQUIRER.

He said they had initiated a signature campaign among doctors opposing the project that would be sent to government officials and agencies concerned.

The Philippine College of Physicians-Panay chapter plans to put up photo exhibits in shopping malls depicting the impact of coal-fired power plants, said Tirador.

Marian Confesor-Celis, president of the Iloilo Medical Society, said they were preparing a position paper on the project based on researches conducted by a committee composed of members coming from various fields of experties.

"We are supporting all our members who are actively campaigning against the project," she said.

The state-owned Korean Electric Power Corp. (Kepco) plans to build the $150-million plant under a build-operate-own scheme in a 25-hectare area in the coastal village of San Salvador, around 5 km from the town proper.

The municipal government is supporting the project but various sectors including residents of San Salvador are against it.

Kepco officials assured that the use of the Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion (CFBC) ensured the ecologically safe use of coal.

But Aldrich Gaspar, vice president of the Western Visayas chapter of the Philippine Pediatric Society, said pregnant women and infants are the most vulnerable to pollutants like mercury and lead that are emitted by coal-fired plants.

"These pollutants affect the central nervous system and cause retarded growth and pulmonary illnesses."

The doctors spoke before a forum on Sunday at the Banate multi-purpose gymnasium attended by around 1,000 residents mostly opposed to the project.

The forum was preceded by a protest march around the poblacion.

Pepe Policarpio; 78

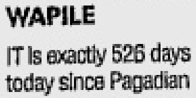
JOSE "Pepe" Burgos Reyes Policarpio, past president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries and ex Philippine representative to the United Nations Development Program, passed away on Oct. 16.

Policarpio, father of former presidential legislative liaison Jimmie Policarpio, was 78.

He left behind his wife Rossini; children Jimmie and Sheila, Col Alberto and Annete de Castro, Therese and Victor Jizon, June and Josephine Ventura, Joselito and Gloria Holguil, Celine and Marino Buser, Franea and Paulo Cudala.

His remains lie at the Magallanes Funeral Chapel 3. Interment is scheduled on Wednesday at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City after a 2 p.m. Mass at the Magallanes Church.

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 526 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

ROUNDUP

B'laan's slay probed

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) vowed to get to the bottom of the killing of Rolando Paglangan, a B'laan leader who won a landmark case over a wide tract of pasture land. Bernard Doy, NCIP officer in charge here, said a special team arrived here Friday to investigate the killing. The victim was waylaid by four unidentified assailants while on his way home to Sitio Lanton, Barangay Apopong. Jaime Lantingan, president of Socsargen Tribal Professional Council, condemned the ambush, saying it was a cowardly act of people against a man who was just fighting for the cause of his fellow lumad. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ex-mayor acquitted

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A former mayor of Buguey, Cagayan, and his three aides were acquitted of kidnapping charges by the Sandiganbayan's first division after seven years of legal proceedings. In a 30-page decision penned by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta on Sept. 30, the Sandiganbayan cleared former Buguey Mayor Licerio Antiporda Jr. and his aides Eliterio Rubiaco, Cesar Talla and Victor Gascon of kidnapping charges over the prosecution's failure to prove their guilt beyond reasonable doubt. The kidnapping charges stemmed from the alleged abduction of Elmer Ramos in Sanchez Mira town on Sept. 10, 1995. But the court said the prosecution had no proof that Ramos was detained in Antiporda's house. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cracker blast

BOCAUE, Bulacan—A makeshift firecracker factory in Barangay Turo here exploded last week after one of its workers burned a snake nest found near it. No one was hurt in the explosion and the resulting fire. Police said the wife of factory owner Rodolfo Navarro ordered their four workers to clean the factory and its surroundings. One of the workers, however, found a huge python in a nest with several eggs near the factory. The worker, police said, poured gasoline on the nest and set this on fire. The fire spread to a pile of firecrackers and triggered an explosion.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

WHO drive on STD

URDANETA CITY—The World Health Organization is helping this city and three other cities in Northern Luzon in their campaign to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among commercial sex workers, WHO Philippine representative Jan Marc Olive said. Olive met with government and non-government officials and owners of entertainment firms in this city recently to discuss WHO's technical assistance to solve the problem. The assistance will come in the form of education, training and information materials. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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(In exact order)

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SUERTRES
2 6 7

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Bus drivers go on strike, rap MMDA

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority's traffic projects yesterday received yet another blow when hundreds of bus drivers went on strike in Quezon City, leaving thousands of commuters stranded.

According to MMDA officials, who sent out their own vehicles to ferry the stranded passengers, around 200 bus drivers began the strike as early as 6 a.m.

Strikers were seen on Quirino Highway, Litex Road, Commonwealth and Novaliches in Quezon City, stopping other bus drivers who refused to join the strike.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said the drivers were protesting the single dispatch system or the Organized Bus Route, and the no-contact apprehension policy.

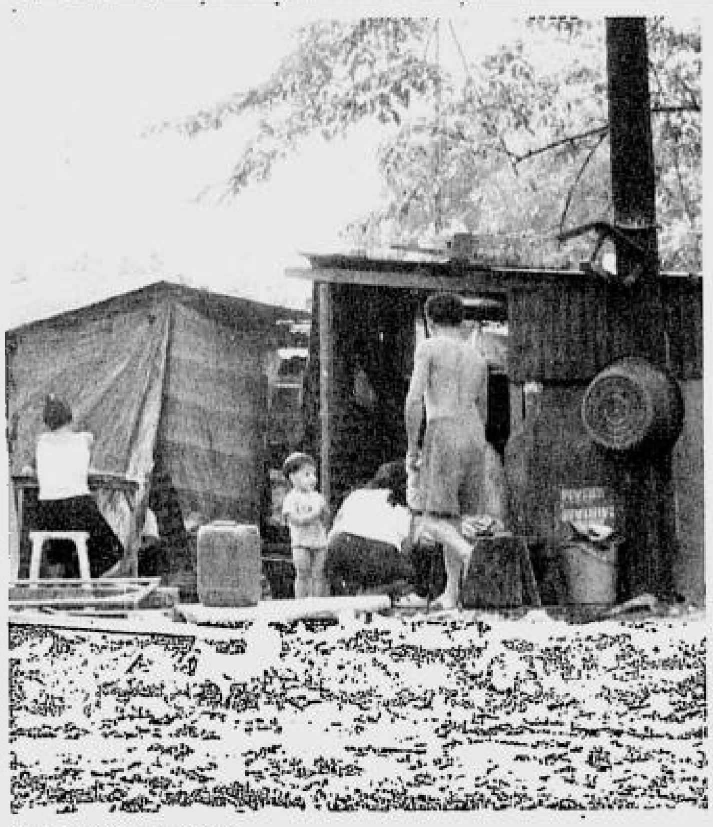
MMDA traffic chief Angelito Vergel de Dios said the agency promises to review the no-contact apprehension policy and send summons to "deserving violators."

Claire de la Fuente, president of the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association, said the bus drivers who went on strike were not among their group, although she admitted that many drivers and operators joined, which was enough to paralyze transport in the area.

At press time, 10 striking drivers have been arrested, according to reports. *Margaux Ortiz, Tina Santos*

METRO MAYORS IN APEC

Firsthand feel of Thai planning



THEY'RE BACK

United States President George W. Bush has come and gone, and the informal settlers who were driven out of the Batasan Complex have returned to the place where their hovels used to stand. A week before the state visit, authorities razed to the ground the shanty community in Batasan, site of the House of Representatives where Mr. Bush delivered his address. JOAN BONDOC

By Clarissa Batino

BANGKOK (via PLDT)—What are eight Metro Manila mayors doing in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Bangkok, Thailand?

According to President Macapagal-Arroyo, she brought with her the eight local government executives "to try to bring regional trade and investment issues closer to the doorstep of strategic local governance."

And at the sidelines of Apec, the mayors would take the chance to see for themselves how Thailand has improved urban planning, solving major problems like traffic, garbage, and street vending—three headaches that have dogged Philippine local governments.

Accompanying Ms Macapagal to the Apec summit in Thailand are mayors Lito Atienza of Manila, Feliciano Belmonte Jr. of Quezon City, Benjamin Abalos Jr. of Mandaluyong, Rey Malonzo of Caloocan, Lourdes Fernando of Marikina, Freddie Tinga of Taguig, Jose Emmanuel Carlos of Valenzuela and Rosendo Capco of Pateros.

"I brought with me eight mayors on this trip," the President said in a statement. "They have joined me in important bilateral meetings and they have aired very important views in the interest of their constituencies in the presence of international business leaders and policy makers.

"I aim to strengthen the interface between our local governments and the dynamic horizon of global business and regional governance, because the vagaries of political and economic security have an unavoidable impact on the execution of policies at the community and grassroots level."

A member of the President's party said that the mayors are intent on studying how Thailand had taken on urban planning and efficiently tackled issues like street vending.

To many Filipinos, Thailand is a cleaner, more orderly version of Metro Manila.

Ms Macapagal has admitted that she would be adopting some of the economic and political policies of Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

"Our bilateral relations with Thailand are at full bloom," she said. "President Thaksin and I share a common vision for security, peace and development in the region."

Ms Macapagal said that she has learned much from the way Thaksin carried out his campaign against illegal drugs, as well as the way he handled the problems of communist insurgency and right-wing movements.

"Thailand uses an iron hand to address its drug problem," Ms Macapagal said. "To a lesser extent, I saw what he did and I tried to do the same. I adopted the setup, wherein (Thai security forces) put drug rehabilitation units inside the jail."

The President also remarked that the Thai government "had solved the threats of communism and mutiny… I am studying how they did that."

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Security focus shifts to cemeteries

AFTER implementing a tight security cordon for US President George W. Bush last week, it seemed the police could go through anything.

This, in effect, was the assertion of Western Police District spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod, who said security plans for the All Saint's Day holiday would be a breeze to implement.

But Agunod was also quick to add the police are taking the Nov. 1 security plans seriously, and in fact would begin meeting this week with station commanders and command group directors of the WPD for "Oplan Kaluluwa."

Agunod said yesterday that liquor, bladed weapons, sound systems and walk-in vendors would be banned in Manila's four public cemeteries.

Only concessionaires with proper permits from city hall would be allowed inside the North, South, Chinese and La Loma cemeteries, he said.

Checkpoints would also be set up at cemetery gates and parking areas would be designated so that vehicles won't clog up traffic.

Bus depots in Manila would also be watched and baggage inspected for explosives and deadly weapons. Thousands are expected to go home to the provinces for the three-day weekend from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Bush's speech dooms terrorists

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHAT could be a stronger endorsement for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's candidacy than the one made by US President George Bush before he came visiting last Saturday?

Bush said: "I know my friend is running again (Bush thought GMA was running for reelection-RT), and she's got a strong agenda to run on. [She] has been very strong and I appreciate that and I appreciate my friendship with her."

The American President gave that statement to government TV reporter Toby Nebrida on Oct. 14, during an interview at the White House.

* * *

That, plus his presence in the country even for only eight hours, has boosted GMA's candidacy by leaps and bounds. The next surveys will show it.

It's no wonder then that GMA's sidekicks, as INQUIRER said in its banner story, "fell all over themselves" to get the story out.

That was not a virtual endorsement. It was a real endorsement from the leader of the world's mightiest nation.

* * *

President Bush is not one guy who beats around the bush when he makes a statement. He goes direct to the point.

His message was clear: If GMA is elected President in 2004, expect the United States to help the Philippines in all its needs.

Bush is the type who makes good his threat, as well as keeps his promise.

* * *

There's a saying that a hungry man should swallow his pride to beg for food from his brother who has excess food on the table.

The Philippines is the hungry man and the US its elder brother. There may have been a spat between this country and the US a few years ago after we drove out American forces from their bases, but all that is already in the past tense.

The Philippines and the US have forged a new and stronger friendship than before because this country is among the first to support America in its fight against international terrorism.

Returning the gesture, the US is now pouring in military and economic aid into the Philippines.

* * *

Already, the US considers the Philippines an important non-NATO ally. NATO stands for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that is composed of, among others, the US, Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

What is the significance of being a non-NATO ally of the US? Simply that Uncle Sam won't allow the country to be overrun by the mutual enemy of both countries. In this case, the common enemy is international terrorism.

A country that has the backing of the world's mightiest nation can sleep well.

* * *

Bush's speech before the joint session of Congress spelled doom for the Abu Sayyaf and other enemies of the state. He promised to bring the Abu Sayyaf to justice, fulfill his government's pledge to provide development assistance to Mindanao and dismantle the terrorist network of Jemaah Islamiyah, as well as other threat groups in Southeast Asia.

Although he didn't mention the other groups, the US President might also be referring to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the New People's Army (NPA).

The MILF is a well-known supporter of the Abu Sayyaf, while the NPA is on the US government's list of terrorist groups.

* * *

The only reason the government can't go full blast against the MILF is that it enjoys the support of some Middle East countries.

Our government is scared of offending Arab countries sympathetic to the MILF because we depend on them for our oil supply. If they cut off our oil supply we are doomed.

The US government can pluck us out of that predicament by pressuring the Arab countries not to interfere in our purely internal problem.

* * *

Since the MILF coddles the Abu Sayyaf, then it is also a terrorist organization notwithstanding its claim that it's fighting for Muslim independence.

The US has seen through the fiction that the MILF is not a terrorist group because it really is.

But the US is just waiting for the Philippine government to put the terrorist tag on the MILF before it does.

* * *

What does that mean? American troops can now go after the MILF, albeit secretly, by waging war games with Filipino soldiers in MILF territories.

People who believe that the terrorist Abu Sayyaf was licked by Filipino troops alone are naive. Without the help of the Americans, the Abu Sayyaf would still be running circles around our troops in Basilan.

Without the sophisticated equipment and training provided by the US, the Abu Sayyaf would continue with their kidnap and murder rampage.

* * *

Bush is dead serious in annihilating the Abu Sayyaf from our soil.

Referring to the terrorist group, the US President said "there can be no compromise with terror."

After meeting with GMA in Malacañang, Bush said the Abu Sayyaf was a "serious threat," and RP-US cooperation in fighting it would be a "model for the region."

To Filipinos who long for peace, the statement of Mr. Bush is music to the ears.

METROBRIEFS

'Oplan Pogi'

DRIVERS have to look snappy in Makati. If they don't, they would be arrested and fined by the Makati Traffic Enforcement Unit. Yesterday, the unit warned drivers of buses, jeepneys and taxis against wearing slippers, shorts and colored shirts when driving. Supt. Panfilo V. Fernandez Jr., head of the traffic unit, said 150 drivers had been arrested from Sept. 1 to 30 for violation of the dress code prescribed by the Metro Manila Development Authority. The dress code is being implemented as part of the Makati government's "Oplan Pogi" campaign. Under the dress code, bus drivers must wear white polo shirts with collar, jeepney drivers should wear blue shirts with collar, and taxi drivers white shirts with collar. The drivers should also wear long pants and closed shoes. *Margaux Ortiz*

Face smashed

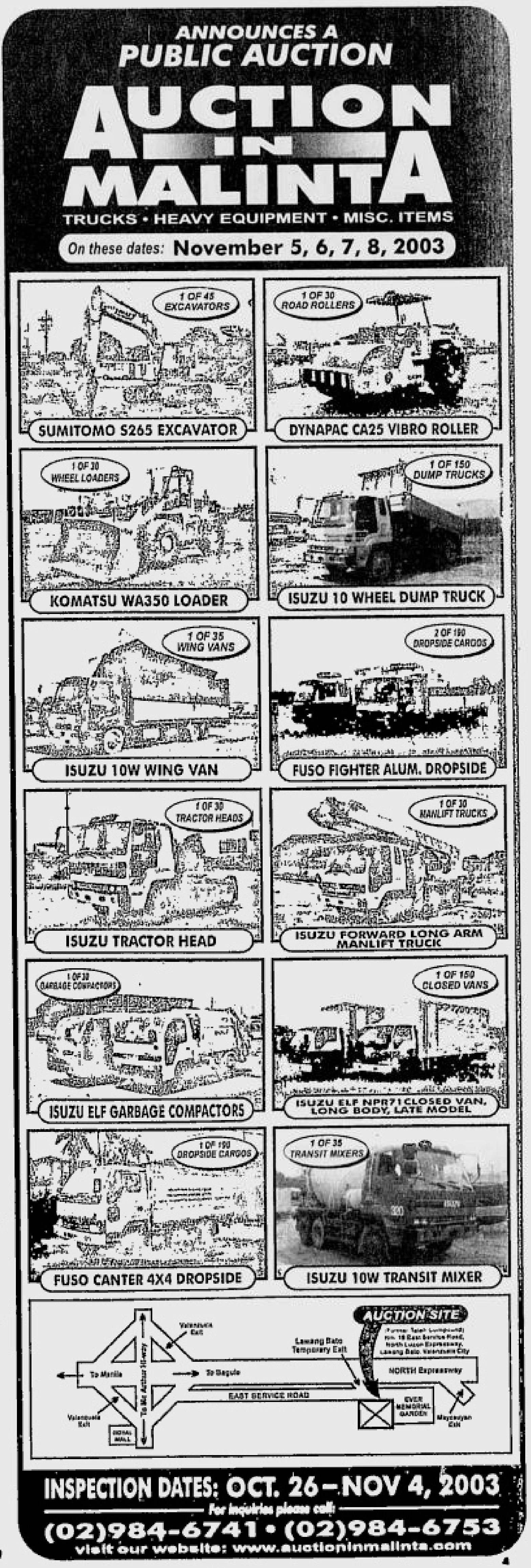
DINA Galeta, 44, on Sunday morning allegedly used a softdrink bottle to smash the face of her niece, Lea Galeta, 23, while they were arguing inside their house in Purok 4, Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City. The blow to the head was enough to kill Lea, police said. According to Filemon Pornicula, Scene of the Crime Operations medical officer, Galeta also tried to get rid of Lea's body by setting it on fire. Police said that Lea's body reeked of gasoline and sustained first-degree burns. Police are now looking for Dina. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Bad loser

NOBODY likes to lose, but Manila traffic policeman PO2 Reynante Valiente apparently took his loss in an Internet casino game so badly that he allegedly stole money from the gaming company and badly beat up a young female employee. Police said Valiente lost more than P80,000 at the Sports and Games Entertainment Corp. on Oca Street, Port Area last Friday. He allegedly asked Jennifer Mercene, 21, cashier at the gaming firm, if he could sleep there when he ran out of money. Mercene said yes, but was surprised when Valiente beat her up. He then dragged her to the vault, told her to open it, took P110,000 in cash, then fled. He is now the subject of a manhunt. *Leila Salaverria*

Brief dancing

FOR DANCING almost naked, two men landed in a detention cell last Saturday. Childhood friends Axle Ruiz, 25, and Jam Sandoval, 22, both of Davao, were arrested during a raid of the Maginoo Club on Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Police said the raid was conducted after the Manila City Hall's Business Promotion and Development Office received complaints regarding the lewd shows being staged at the club. Police said the suspects were performing a striptease act to a song by Madonna and were down to their briefs when the raid was held. *Tarra Quismundo*



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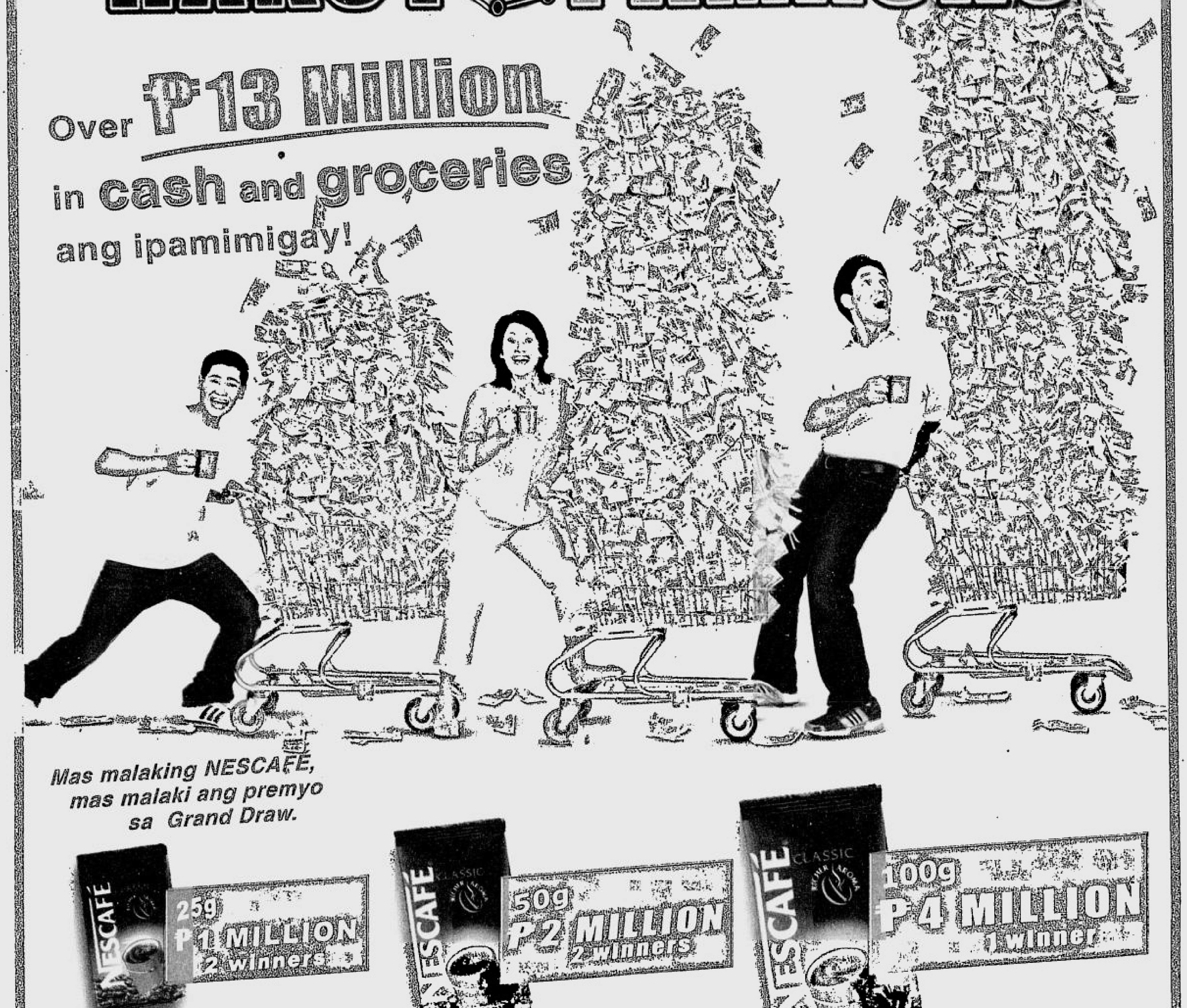

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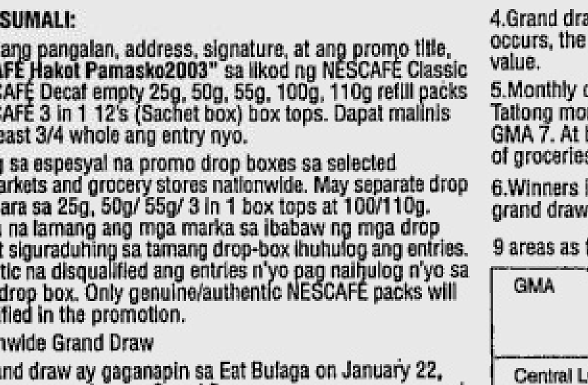
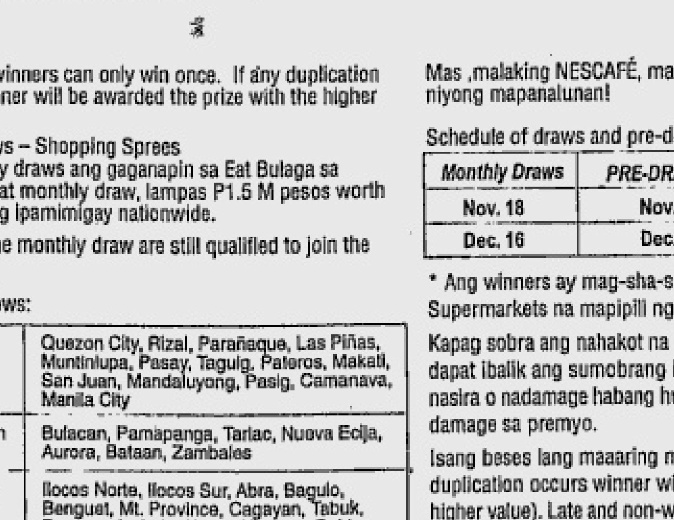
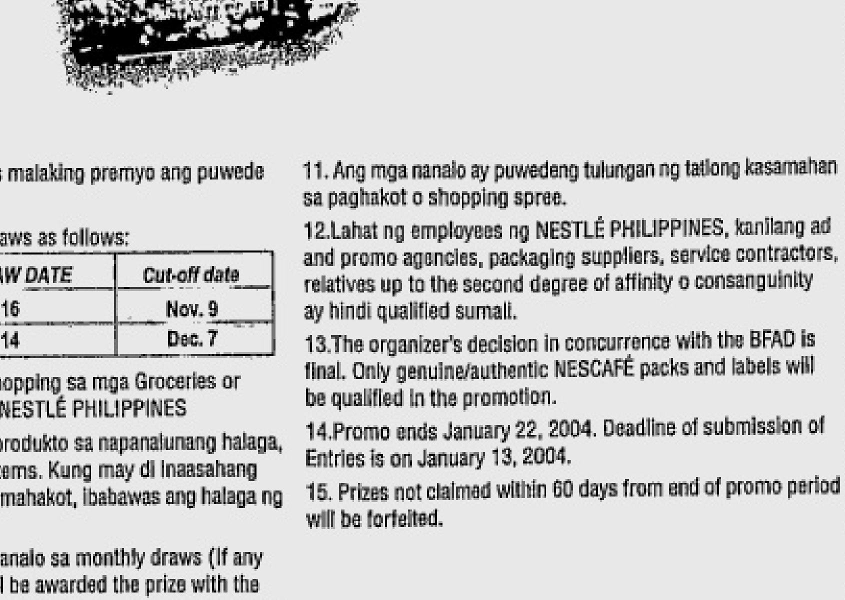
Mas malaking NESCAFÉ, mas malaki ang premyo sa Grand Draw.



25g ₱1 MILLION 2 winners



50g ₱2 MILLION 2 winners



100g ₱4 MILLION 1 winner

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1.Isulat ang pangalan, address, signature, at ang promo title, **"NESCAFÉ Hakot Pamasko2003"** sa likod ng NESCAFÉ Classic or NESCAFÉ Decaf empty 25g, 50g, 55g, 100g, 110g refill packs at NESCAFÉ 3 in 1 12's (Sachet box) box tops. Dapat malinis and at least 3/4 whole ang entry nyo.

2.Ihulog sa espesyal na promo drop boxes sa selected supermarkets and grocery stores nationwide. May separate drop boxes para sa 25g, 50g/ 55g/ 3 in 1 box tops at 100/110g. Tingnan na lamang ang mga marka sa ibabaw ng mga drop boxes at siguraduhing sa tamang drop-box ihuhulog ang entries. Automatic na disqualified ang entries n'yo pag naihulog n'yo sa maling drop box. Only genuine/authentic NESCAFÉ packs will be qualified in the promotion.

3.Nationwide Grand Draw

Ang grand draw ay gaganapin sa Eat Bulaga on January 22, 2004. Ang mga prizes sa Grand Draw ay ang mga sumusunod:

Dalawang (2) winners ng P1,000,000 NESCAFÉ CLASSIC and NESCAFÉ DECAF 25g draw; Dalawang (2) winners ng P2,000,000 NESCAFÉ CLASSIC and NESCAFÉ DECAF 50g, 55g, NESCAFÉ 3 in 1 box tops draw; at Isang (1) winner ng P4,000,000 sa 100/110g draw.

Lahat ng cash prizes are tax-free. Breakdown of prizes as follows:

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NESCAFÉ CLASSIC and NESCAFÉ DECAF 25g	The winner will be given a minute to gather the groceries (Nestlé Products only) worth P25,000	1 winner per area x 9 areas
NESCAFÉ CLASSIC and NESCAFÉ DECAF 50g and 55g NESCAFÉ 3 in 1 Box tops	The winner will be given 2 minutes to gather the groceries (Nestlé Products only) worth P50,000	1 winner per area x 9 areas
NESCAFÉ CLASSIC and NESCAFÉ DECAF 100g, 110g	The winner will be given 4 minutes to gather the groceries (Nestlé Products only) worth P100,000	1 winner per area x 9 areas

4.Grand draw winners can only win once. If any duplication occurs, the winner will be awarded the prize with the higher value.

5.Monthly draws – Shopping Sprees
Tatlong monthly draws ang gaganapin sa Eat Bulaga sa GMA 7. At bawat monthly draw, lampas P1.5 M pesos worth of groceries ang ipamimigay nationwide.

6.Winners in the monthly draw are still qualified to join the grand draw.

9 areas as follows:

GMA	Quezon City, Rizal, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Pasay, Taguig, Pateros, Makati, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Camanava, Manila City
Central Luzon	Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Bataan, Zambales
North Luzon	Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Baguio, Benguet, Mt. Province, Cagayan, Tabuk, Batanes, Isabela, Nueva Viscaya, Quirino, Ifugao, Pangasinan, La Union
South Luzon 1	Batangas, Mindoro, Cavite, Laguna, Palawan
South Luzon 2	Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Masbate, Lucena City, Quezon Province, Marinduque, Upper Laguna
West Visayas	Iloilo, Antique, Guimaras, Capiz, Aklan, Negros
East Visayas	Cebu, Samar, Leyte, Tagbilaran, Bohol
North Mindanao	Misamis, Bukidnon, Lanao, Agusan, Surigao, Camiguin, Gingoog City, Misamis, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibuguey
South Mindanao	Davao, Compostela Valley, Saranggani, General Santos, Zamboangga City, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Cotabato City South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat

Mas ,malaking NESCAFÉ, mas malaking premyo ang puwede niyong mapanalunan!

Schedule of draws and pre-draws as follows:

Monthly Draws	*PRE-DRAW DATE*	*Cut-off date*
Nov. 18	Nov. 16	Nov. 9
Dec. 16	Dec. 14	Dec. 7

* Ang winners ay mag-sha-shopping sa mga Groceries or Supermarkets na mapipili ng NESTLÉ PHILIPPINES

Kapag sobra ang nahakot na produkto sa napanalunang halaga, dapat ibalik ang sumobrang items. Kung may di inaasahang nasira o nadamage habang humahakot, ibabawas ang halaga ng damage sa premyo.

Isang beses lang maaaring manalo sa monthly draws (If any duplication occurs winner will be awarded the prize with the higher value). Late and non-winning entries in the monthly draws automatically qualify sa Grand Draw.

7.Bawat draw ay may supervision ng authorized representative ng Bureau of Food and Drugs.

8.Lahat ng winners ay padadalhan ng confirmation letter na may instruction kung paano i-claim ang kanilang prize. Ang mga prizes na di makuha within 60 days pagkatanggap ng letter ay forfeited upon approval of BFAD.

9.Ang winners ay dapat personal na mag-claim ng premyo. Magpakita ng proper ID tulad ng driver's license, passport, o company ID kasama ng confirmation letter.

10.Kung ang nanalo ay may karamdaman o physically incapable na mag-claim ng prize o sumali sa shopping spree, puwedeng magpadala ng representative na magpapakita ng sumusunod:

a. Letter of authorization
b. Proper Identification Papers
c. Confirmation Letter

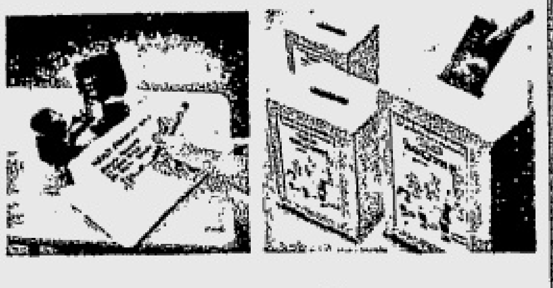
11. Ang mga nanalo ay puwedeng tulungan ng tatlong kasamahan sa paghakot o shopping spree.

12.Lahat ng employees ng NESTLÉ PHILIPPINES, kanilang ad and promo agencies, packaging suppliers, service contractors, relatives up to the second degree of affinity o consanguinity ay hindi qualified sumali.

13.The organizer's decision in concurrence with the BFAD is final. Only genuine/authentic NESCAFÉ packs and labels will be qualified in the promotion.

14.Promo ends January 22, 2004. Deadline of submission of Entries is on January 13, 2004.

15. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from end of promo period will be forfeited.



Bili na ng NESCAFÉ, at humakot ng katakot-takot!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No' 0944 S. 2003

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JUNELOU Marie Cabal of Tangub City, Misamis Occidental, turns in the fastest time in ruling her semifinal heat in the women's 400-meter hurdles. EDWIN BACASMAS

Davao maintains lead; La Salle tankers shine

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MATI, Davao Oriental—Davao City picked up five more gold medals to keep the overall lead yesterday even as the Koronadal swimmers made a big splash in the 3rd Mindanao Friendship Games in this hot and humid bayside municipality.

Koronadal struck in swimming through the brother-sister tandem of Ismael Jade and Izah Sueno, who captured two golds apiece. Terese Simora added a fifth gold in the women's 50-meter breaststroke as Koronadal grabbed second overall with five golds, three silvers and two bronzes.

Davao City almost matched Koronadal's feat with four victories on the pool and scored in the men's individual all-around through gymnast John Mark Ryan to raise its golden collection to eight.

Cheered by no less than Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Davao City also amassed nine silvers and five bronzes to strengthen its title-retention bid after ruling last year's edition in Cagayan de Oro.

Medal standing	G	S	B
Davao City	8	9	5
Koronadal	5	3	2
Iligan City	4	3	6
Bukidnon	2	1	1
Gen. San	2	2	1
Ozamis	1	2	0
Cotabato City	1	1	0
Panabo City	1	1	0
So. Cotabato	1	0	1
Mis. Or	0	1	0
Davao Or.	0	-0	2
Zamboanga	0	0	1
Malaybalay	0	0	1
Unattached	0	0	1

But Monique Bacolod proved the day's top performer as the La Salle swimmer claimed three of four swim golds that boosted Iligan City to third overall.

The 14-year-old Bacolod, who won six golds in last year's MFG, won the women's 50m freestyle and 100m backstroke before teaming up with Lyn Nianh Acain, Shahani Navarro and Sola Viste for the 400m freestyle relay gold.

Michael Nikko Cao Hok also captured the men's 400m free for Iligan.

Also striking a big blow for UAAP swim champion La Salle were the Sueno siblings, who are children of former Koronadal Gov. Ismael Sueno.

Izah ruled the women's 200m individual medley and the 400m women's freestyle, while Ismael Jade dominated the men's 50m freestyle and the men's 200m IM.

"We are confident of winning more in the next few days," said the comely Izah, whose elder sister, Ivy Joyce, was a Palarong Pambansa champion before becoming a physician.

The women's all-around gold in gymnastics went to Jessa Decipulo, who gave Gen. Santos City its first victory in the five-day event organized by the Philippine Sports Commission and sponsored by Air Philippines, Samsung, STI, Centrum, Nestlé Phils., Speedo, Kix Taekwondo, Pagcor/Casino Filipino, Rogemson and WG&A Super Ferry.

Cotabato City riders Datu Sinsuat and his uncle, Datu Radin Ampatuan, ran off with the gold and silver medals, respectively, in the downhill competition of the mountain bike held at Sitio Baso in Barangay Badas here.

The 18-year-old Sinsuat, an Ateneo de Davao University management graduate, dominated the 1.3-km single track race in one minute, 14.59 seconds.

His 25-year-old uncle, Ampatuan, finished in 1:15.95, while Davao City's Harold Bautista wound up third in 1:19.12.

Anelia Primnes of South Cotabato clinched the gold as the only participant in the women's side of the event where she timed 4:32.91.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Chiefs vs Raiders; 9 a.m. (r-2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.); ESPN—Kansas City visits Oakland in this AFC duel.

TENNIS: Masters Highlights (Spain); 11 a.m. (r); Star Sports—Catch the best moments from Madrid

BASKETBALL: Jazz vs Lakers, Game 5, 1988 Western Semifinals; 8 a.m. (r-midnight); Solar Sports—Living up to his nickname "Big Game James," Lakers' power forward James Worthy and his 27 points help spur Los Angeles to a two-point victory over Utah.

Vintage NBA-George Gervin; 10 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—Relive the career of the "Iceman" and get your fill of finger rolls.

Pistons vs Lakers, Game 7, 1988 Finals; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports—On his way to earning NBA Finals MVP honors, James Worthy posts a triple double and leads the Lakers to a 108-105 victory in Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

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Filipino caddie to the rescue

GREENSBORO, North Carolina—Jesper Parnevik's caddie went on strike for the final two rounds of the PGA Greensboro Classic, but the Swedish star used a Filipino substitute on his bags and found his missing form.

Parnevik, in danger of losing his US Tour playing rights, fired his best round of the year here Sunday, a seven-under-par 65, to finish in a share of 22nd and win $39,487.

Every dollar is critical because Parnevik jumped from 126th to 121st and the top 125 money winners this year will be fully exempt for next year's tour. With only two events remaining, Parnevik should be able to hold on.

Parnevik's caddie, Lance Ten Broeck, walked out on Parnevik after the second round, apparently unhappy with the way he was being treated.

Parnevik, a five-time winner on the US PGA Tour, would only say that "he has some personal problems at home."

With no other regular caddie available, Parnevik turned to his yoga and meditation guru, Dada Atma, who carried the Swede's bags Saturday and Sunday.

"If nothing else, he had to learn to walk fast," Parnevik said. "The first two holes, he was about 80 yards behind. He's from the Philippines. He's an interesting guy, but I think he should stick to yoga."

Asked how he met Dada, Parnevik said, "He swung by my house one day and I didn't get rid of him for three days." *AFP*

EASTRIDGE GOLF

Pros tackle tough format

By Jong Arcano

PAGUNSAN

PAYBACK.

This daunting word local professionals last encountered when they were still amateurs becomes their main concern again as they compete for big money in the inaugural Eastridge Invitational tournament firing off today at the Eastridge Golf Club in Binangonan, Rizal.

The 110 pros in the starting roster will be playing the Stableford format in a tournament for the first time in recent memory where the player with the most points after 72 holes of play gets the P150,000 first prize from a total of P1 million jointly put up by Mega-Pro Resources International and Overseas Professional Achievers International Inc.

The event is patterned after the US PGA Tour's International, won by Davis Love III several months ago.

In this demanding format, only birdies, eagles and double-eagles get equivalent points of two, five and eight, respectively. A player, however, can end up in the negative since he gets slapped with a point deduction for each bogey and minus three for a double-bogey or worse.

"The format is tough. It's a must for us to get the birdies on the par-5s so we can at least make up for bogeys that will come along the way," said Rey Pagunsan, one of the favorites.

Pagunsan is actually using the event as a tuneup for the last stage of the Japan Tour in his bid to join Frankie Miñoza in the cash-rich circuit for the 2004 season.

He will be coming off a victory in the Casino Fontana Two-Man Team Challenge at Villamor where he led elder brother Juanito to victory.

And in yesterday's pro-am appetizer, Pagunsan justified his top billing by sweeping both the team and individual competitions.

Pagunsan nipped Carito Villaroman in the countback for scoring honors after both carded five-under 67s. He then joined hands with Gerry Limlingan for a 63 in the team event.

There are other aces in the cast hungry for cash and glory due to the dearth of tournaments. These are former Philippine Open champions Robert Pactolerin and Cassius Casas, Antonio Lascuna and Richard Sinfuego, the star of the now-defunct First Gentleman Professional Golf Circuit.

Cariaso, David best of the week

SURE, Rosell Ellis has made a big difference in turning things around for Barangay Ginebra. And sure, Artemus McClary continues to be the force lifting Coca-Cola to the top of the standings in Group B of the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference.

As imports, they are expected to churn out eye-popping numbers every night. But they can't do it all by themselves. They must also get solid support from the locals.

In the past week, Barangay Ginebra's Bal David radiated with brilliance while Coca-Cola's Jeffrey Cariaso provided that extra spark as the Tigers, already in the quarterfinals, completed their second five-game winning streak in the conference.

For their fine contributions, David and Cariaso were voted co-Players of the Week by the PBA Press Corps for the period Oct. 13 to 19.

David, still the premier point guard of the Gin Kings, had 15 points, three rebounds, five assists and a steal in Ginebra's 95-90 win over the Phone Pals.

Ginebra's victory over Shell completed the quarterfinal cast in Group B as the Gin Kings joined Coca-Cola, Red Bull and Talk 'N Text in the next phase.

Cariaso, a member of last year's Mythical First Five, remained the chief local scorer of the Tigers. He had 16 points, four rebounds and four assists as Coca-Cola blasted Shell Velocity, 110-89.

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PBA viewership increases, but the bad news is ...

By Musong Castillo
Contributor

IT'S GOING up in the ratings but going down in television earnings.

The Philippine Basketball Association is going through these contrasting situations with three quarters of what is easily the most sparsely attended season over.

From a low of 4 percent combined rating of Channel 13 and Channel 4 telecasts in the All Filipino Conference early in the year, the PBA has rebounded and is rating close to eight percent in Channel 13 and 2 percent in Channel 4 mainly due to the promise of a slam-bang conclusion to the ongoing Reinforced Conference.

And that's the good news.

The bad news is the government-owned National Broadcasting Network (NBN 4), which has the exclusive right to telecast the games up to 2005, now owes the league P90 million in unpaid dues from April to September, according to an insider who did not want to be identified.

NBN 4 has paid the league only P54 million from its original P200 million contract and, in an effort to stop the bleeding, has forwarded its receivables to the PBA.

Despite continued dwindling attendance as games move from one venue to another, team owners and the league's Board of Governors have agreed not to charge interest on the late payments by NBN.

There were unconfirmed reports that the Board had planned to rescind the present contract of NBN about three months ago but dropped the move for the sake of the PBA fans.

"But it is still in the minds of all the Board members right now," the source said of the near fallout with NBN.

NBN won the present contract after a frenzied bidding war with several others, with a package that offered twin broadcasts of the games.

The P90 million NBN owes the PBA is apart from the P56 million the TV company will have to pay the league for the last three months of the year.

The dire financial situation, the INQUIRER learned, has affected not only the staff covering the PBA games, but also the personnel in the other programs of the station. Their salaries are now said to be up to two months delayed.

NBN 4 is the third television outfit in five years to be awarded exclusive rights to cover the league in five years after Vintage and Viva-Vintage, which it both beat in the bidding late last year.

BAPI head revives call for hoops 'superbody'

NIC Jorge, leader of the court-recognized Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc., yesterday said he plans to revive calls for the formation of a "basketball superbody" to help revive the sport's sagging image in the country.

Jorge, however, said the BAPI should first extend its hand to all stakeholders in the sport, including officials of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP), whose ascendancy was declared null and void by the Court of Appeals recently.

To achieve this, Jorge has asked the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee to recognize the court's mandate.

BAP secretary general Graham Lim, however, feels that POC president Celso Dayrit should follow the accepted rules and procedures in resolving the issue.

"At this point, I am personally indebted to Mr. Dayrit for recognizing that cases involving sports would almost follow the dictates of the Olympic movement, either through the National Sports Associations or the International Federations of the sport concerned, " said Lim, whose citizenship is also being questioned by a group of former BAP referees.

Lim said in a statement sent to the media that the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) and the International Olympic Committee have already recognized the BAP as early as 2001.

He added the BAP board, headed by Tiny Literal, is willing to sit down with the POC chief on his concept of management leadership and basketball programming, but requested Dayrit to go easy on the matter of recognizing officials other than those certified by the Fiba.

Lim also noted that the BAP is busy preparing the Philippine team to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December.

"We really don't want to be disrupted at this point on assertions by the group of Bapi under Jorge," Lim said.

Jorge, however, insists on having a basketball superbody.

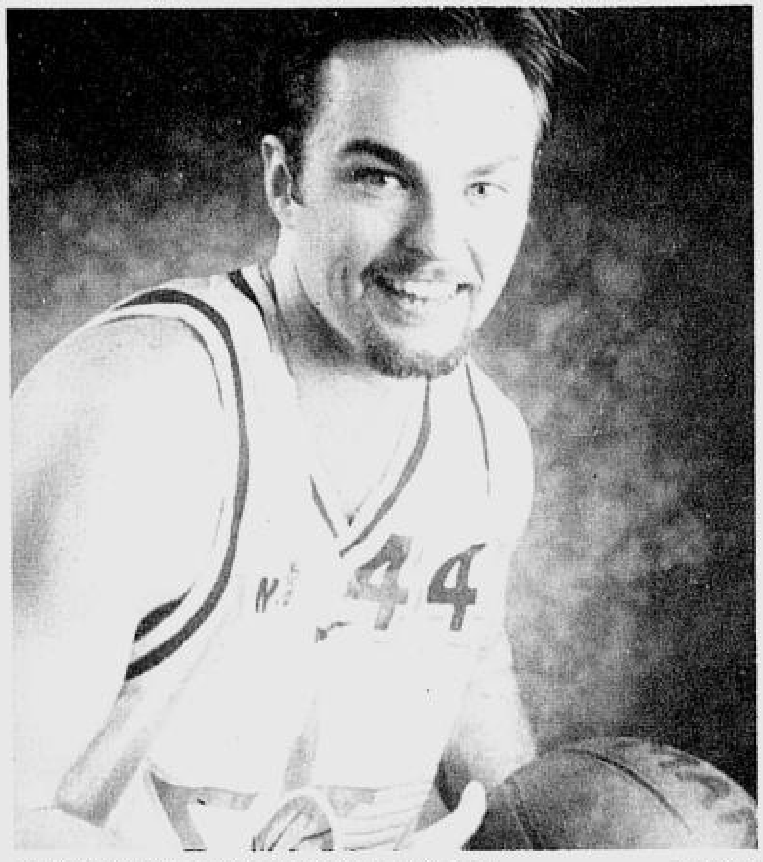
"It has been a long-time dream for many basketball leaders since the idea was first floated several years back through the initiative of the BAPI, Philippine Basketball Association, Philippine Basketball League, the UAAP, NCAA and several other collegiate leagues," Jorge said.

"We are encouraging these groups to help us revive this call again. And we are willing to work with the group of Tiny Literal to achieve this. *Para sa bayan naman ang panawagan na ito* (This is for the country, after all)," he added.

Jorge's BAPI was recently declared the legitimate association for basketball in the Philippines by the CA 13th division, which affirmed a ruling by the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 12 nullifying the existence of the BAP.

The CA also ruled to maintain the status quo prior to the Aug. 14, 1995 election that divided the association into two groups. All other elections that followed it, including the controversial 2001 polls, were declared illegitimate. The court order is final and executory.

Jorge had already initiated talks with leaders of the PBA, PBL and the leading collegiate leagues regarding the creation of the "superbody." He had also consulted provincial basketball leaders. *With a report from Dennis U. Eroa*



COMPTON: A court leader, Del Rosario says. PDI PHOTO

Compton boosts Sunkist

CROWD-DRAWER Alex Compton will see action for Sunkist-UST Tigers in the coming PBL Platinum Cup starting on Nov. 8.

The sweet-shooting Compton has agreed to play for the Aric del Rosario-mentored team, the core of which is made up of UST players.

"RFM is happy to have Alex. He's a role model to young sports fans," said RFM executive Elmer Yanga. "He will boost the chances of Sunkist-UST Tigers in the Platinum Cup."

After playing for LBC-Batangas in the Sunkist-PBL Unity Cup, the Philippine-born American was a cinch to play for Pop Cola under coach Nash Racela.

But Pop Cola backed out at the last minute.

Compton, who will also endorse RFM's mineral water Aqua Blue, called Yanga last Sunday, confirming his decision to don the Sunkist-UST Tigers colors.

Compton will add firepower and poise to the Tigers according to Del Rosario.

"Undoubtedly, Alex will strengthen the team. He's a leader," Del Rosario, also the national men's basketball team coach, stressed.

SPORTSWATCH

Bitoon nips Rañola for crown

TACLOBAN, LEYTE—International Master Richard Bitoon edged NM Yves Rañola via the Bucholz tiebreak, 52.5-52.0, to emerge champion in the recent 2003 Leyte Landing Open chess championship at the MacArthur Park & Beach Resort here. Bitoon and Rañola, stalwarts of the Philippine Navy chess team, split the combined P80,000 for the 1st and 2nd place prizes in the nine-round tournament. The fourth-seeded Bitoon, a product of Southwestern University, drew with Philippine Air Force bet NM Rolando Nolte in 18 moves of a Gruenfeld Defense Saturday night. Rañola needed 50 moves of an English game to whip 3rd seed IM Barlo Nadera of Mandaue City. Nolte finished in a tie for 3rd to 7th placers with Fide Master Adrian Pacis, NM Rogelio Enriquez Jr., NM Emmanuel Senador and NM Levi Mercado. All posted 7 points each. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Duck Defenders oust Hawk Shuttlers

THE DUCK Defenders banked on the brilliant performance of mixed doubles tandem of Martin Araneta and Mylene Amahit, to eliminate the Hawk Shuttlers, 3-2, Saturday night in the Philippine Badminton Tournaments (PBT) All-Star Invitational at the Valle Verde Country Club. With the score tied at 2-all, Araneta and Amahit defeated Naresh Ramnani and Elaine Lao, 17-14, 9-15, 15-9, to give the Ducks their second straight win. The Ducks took the ladies singles behind promising junior Raquel Guerrero, who breezed past Melody Villaceran, 11-4, 11-5. However, the Hawks equalized after JVC Open back-to-back champion Ian Piencenaves fought gallantly to win the men's singles over doubles partner Bogs Amahit, 15-17, 15-2, 15-8.

5-K lures runners to unique festival

THE BEAM-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy opens its provincial swing with a second 5-K race in San Luis, Batangas, on Sunday, coinciding with the celebration of the Tumba Festival. The race is expected to draw competitive and fun runners to the town and help promote its traditions, said Mayor Napoleon Lasala. The Tumba Festival, also known as the "Candle Festival," is held each year on Nov. 1 and 2, when residents gather the candles from the tombs as well as the earthly possessions of the deceased. Media Runners and Sports Promotions' Nelson Macaraig said the next legs of the 5-K run are slated in Olongapo City on Nov. 9, in Pila, Laguna, on Nov. 23 and in Manila in December. Registration is open at the San Luis mayors' office.

Solar airs NBA pre-season games

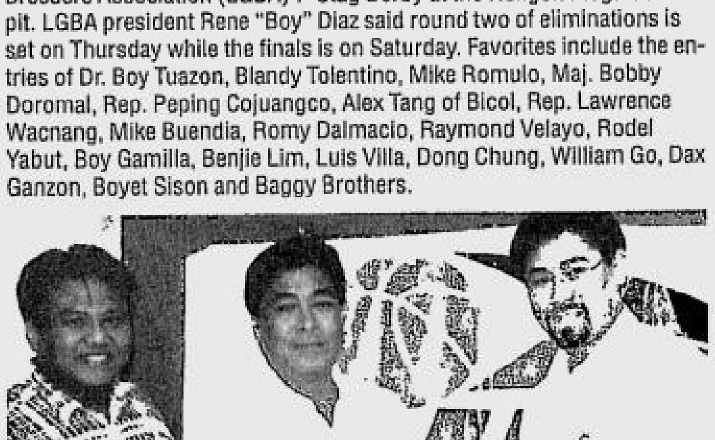
NBA fans will get a preview of the new-look Los Angeles Lakers, the Scottie Pippen-led Chicago Bulls and the defending champion San Antonio Spurs this week on Solar Sports' continuing telecast of NBA pre-season games. The 2003-04 NBA season kicks off next Wednesday (Oct. 29). Tomorrow, Pippen rejoins his old team, the Bulls, as they take on a rejuvenated Vince Carter and the Toronto Raptors "live" at 7 a.m., with a replay at 5:30 p.m. On Thursday, NBA scoring leader Tracy McGrady and his Orlando Magic take on the Atlanta Hawks at 7 a.m., with a replay at 9 p.m. New Lakers Karl Malone and Gary Payton take to the court against their crosstown rivals, the LA Clippers, at 10:30 a.m. this Friday, with a replay at 9 p.m. Then Tim Duncan and the Spurs face Yao Ming and the Houston Rockets "live" at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

Filipino to coach Indon nat'l cage team

FILIPINO Gerardo " Bong" Ramos steered Aspac-Texmaco to its fourth straight title in Indonesia's premier cage league—the Indonesian Basketball League (formerly Kobatama), and was the hands-down choice for Coach of the Year. For his feat, Ramos was appointed coach of the Indonesian basketball team for the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam this December. "*Makakalaban ko pa ang Pilipinas! Trabaho lang ito talaga* and this is God-given. I am just so blessed. Maybe God has a purpose for me in helping the Indonesians this time and I am in awe what God has in store for me. "In a way, even though I now carry the Indonesian flag, *sabit na rin doon sa mga balita na ang* coach *nila ay Pinoy!* That makes me feel proud too and it is a source of enormous joy ," said Ramos, assistant coach of the Philippine Team that retained its title in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEAG.

LGBA 7-stag derby today at Roligon

MORE than 60 fights have been lined up for today's Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz said round two of eliminations is set on Thursday while the finals is on Saturday. Favorites include the entries of Dr. Boy Tuazon, Blandy Tolentino, Mike Romulo, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Rep. Peping Cojuangco, Alex Tang of Bicol, Rep. Lawrence Wacnang, Mike Buendia, Romy Dalmacio, Raymond Velayo, Rodel Yabut, Boy Gamilla, Benjie Lim, Luis Villa, Dong Chung, William Go, Dax Ganzon, Boyet Sison and Baggy Brothers.



NBL PARTNERS
San Pablo City Mayor Florante "Boy" Aquino and national shooting champion and Spring Cooking Oil general manager Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (right) shake hands as partners in the National Basketball League Regional Conference starting on Oct. 24. Coached by Ted Magno, the team will be known as Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo. At left is San Pablo City sports development officer Eric Buencillo.

F-TOYOTA CHAMP: JP Cariño (inset) of Intelco Racing cooly sits in the cockpit of his car prior to the start of the recent 2003 Formula Toyota Cup race at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Cariño captured the crown at the expense of rivals George Apacible and Arvin Drueco.

Z

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ONE of the fastest rising boxers today is Z Gorres.

OK, before you even start thinking I'm about to pull your leg, stop. The guy is for real.

Z is his real name to start with. You might think Z is for Zorro, as in the Mark of Zorro. Nope. A ring name, maybe. Nope. Z is for Zita.

"Zita is my mother's name," said Gorres.

His full name is Z C Gorres. No frills. No joke.

"C is for Celestino, my father's name," said Gorres.

It used to be that his ring name was Z C Y Gorres, courtesy of his discoverer, the amiable and genuine boxing patron Tony "Ala" Aldeguer. But the name proved to be a tongue-twister, especially for ring announcers. They would almost always mispronounce the boxer's name each time they introduce him in pre-fight ceremonies.

"First, they removed the letter Y," said Gorres. "It wasn't of much help. Then they next removed the letter C. *Wala pa rin*. Then, they decided to make it just Z Gorres."

Z Gorres started boxing at age 12. It didn't happen by accident. He tagged along with his brother, Jun Gorres, a boxer, each time Jun went to the gym for workouts. Z got hooked to the sport and, at age 19, he turned professional.

"My parents had objections, but I insisted I like the sport," said Gorres, the fourth of five children (3 girls, 2 boys).

He debuted as a six-rounder, and beat Rudy Hibaya by unanimous decision at the Waterfront in Cebu City. He knocked out his second opponent in the second round and next moved up as an 8-rounder, decisioning his Thai opponent.

In his first fight as a 10-rounder, he beat Bert Cano by majority decision before knocking out his next foe in the third round. Gorres has this penchant to knock out his opponents before the fifth and, in fact, five of his nine knockout wins came in the third.

Gorres, who would soon be taken in by Rudy Salud in partnership with Tony Aldeguer, piled up 14 straight wins since his debut in 2001, 7 by knockout. In his 15th fight though, Gorres lost by TKO to Edgar Rodrigo and surrendered his interim RP flyweight crown. Unknown to his handlers, Gorres had minor colds and coughs and a toothache on fight night.

That setback proved to be a wakeup call for the boxer from Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

"I thought I could win them all," said Gorres. "I took my health for granted."

Salud had Gorres immediately taken to the doctor. Dr. Luigi Pastor, a noted dentist, found eight of Gorres' teeth defective and made quick repairs.

In his comeback fight, Gorres knocked out his 16th opponent (Libradillo) in the third round. He would follow that up with a fifth round knockout of Ryan Campecenio.

Gorres has been itching to have that rematch with Rodrigo as stipulated in their fight contract. The rematch has been set for Dec. 13, more than 6 months after their first meeting on June 1.

But comes now Jun Sarreal, calling me up to say the Rodrigo-Gorres rematch will not materialize anymore. Shocking as it may seem because it is a complete contradiction from the details of the fight contract of June 1, I wish to have that issue—and Sarreal's sudden telephone call—discussed more thoroughly in my next column, God permitting.

Boxing, ah, it's a sport as baffling as Ali's rope-a-dope against Foreman, as dirty as the crass methods of political hucksters, as dubious as the hustlers of Hong Kong.

You want a knockout, see you Thursday.

***

FASTBREAK. I wish Mark Rosales and his 22 teammates all the luck when they start their campaign today in the World Sport Fishing championship in Yuesu City, South Korea. The squad, backed mainly by Sen. Tito Sotto and Mustad Philippines, will face entries from 50 countries from 5 continents in the event considered as the Olympics of angling.

Arcilla whips Victorino, takes 9th straight title

TOP seed Johnny Arcilla defeated second seed Joseph Victorino, 7-5, 6-3, yesterday to win the men's singles title in the Luis Hilado Memorial Open tennis championships at the Negros Occidental Tennis Association courts in Bacolod City.

It was Arcilla's ninth straight title after Bohol, Mandaue, Coca-Cola, President GMA Cup, Butuan City and the three legs of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit.

"I'm thrilled because I have been unbeatable," said the 23-year-old airman from Butuan City.

Arcilla, who will spearhed the national team in the Vietnam SEA Games this December, also beat Victorino in five final meetings this year.

"I need to train harder to make a good showing in Vietnam," added Arcilla, who will also spearhead the RP men's team to the first Afro-Asian Games slated Oct. 24-Nov. 1 in Hyderabad, India.

Arcilla later teamed up with Michael Mora III to wrap the men's doubles crown over second seeds Alexander Lazaro and Rolando Ruel Jr., 7-6 (2), 6-4.

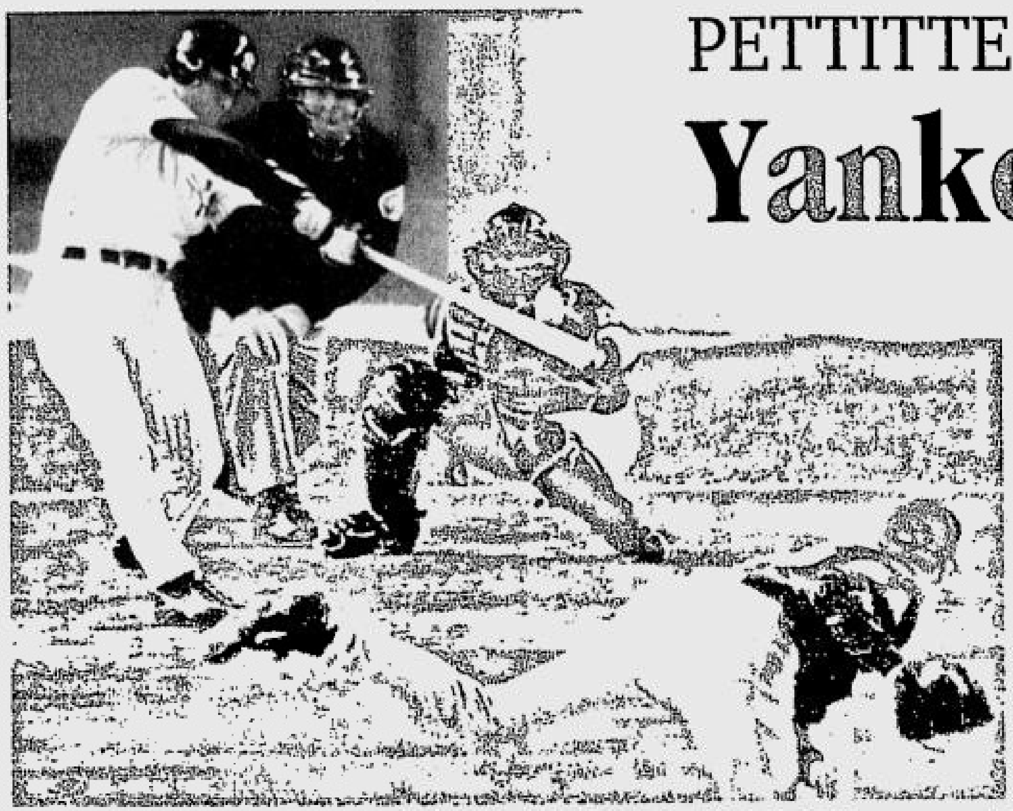
Last Sunday, top-ranked Anna Patricia Santos defended the women's singles title over fourth seed Czarina Mae Arevalo, 6-2, 6-1.

Santos, a member of the Federation Cup team, also won the Philta Open last March.

Santos and Arevalo took the women's doubles, beating top seeds Labay and Bien Zoleta, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

PETTITTE, MATSUI SIZZLE

Yankees even World Series



MATSUI (left) hits a three-run home run against Marlins pitcher Mark Redman. AP

NEW YORK—Andy Pettitte shut down the Marlins and Hideki Matsui became the first Japanese player to homer in a World Series, as the New York Yankees drew even with Florida with a 6-1 win in Game 2 Sunday night.

With the bill of his cap pulled down low to shadow his dark eyes and his glove held high, Pettitte cut a menacing figure on the mound and pitched the Yankees right back into this World Series, working into the ninth inning on only three days' rest.

Inspiration came from his mentor, Roger Clemens.

"I was inside the clubhouse before game talking to Rog a little bit. He said, 'This is what we worked all year for. You got to go out strong like a horse tonight,'" Pettitte said.

He did, all right, and his teammates came out slugging, a take-that response to a Marlins team intent on using its speed to cause trouble.

Matsui delivered the big hit the Yankee Stadium crowd was waiting for, a three-run homer in the first inning on a 3-0 count. Slumping Alfonso Soriano later added a two-run drive.

Those shots seemed to revive a Yankees team that looked sluggish in losing the opener 3-2. And they were plenty for Pettitte, who tied John Smoltz's postseason record of 13 victories.

LINESCORES

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FLORIDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	0
NEW YORK	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	x	6	0	2

"I don't know how much better his stuff can be than tonight," Marlins leadoff man Juan Pierre said. "But if it is, I don't want to see it."

Now, the Series shifts to Pro Player Stadium for Game 3 on Tuesday night (Wednesday morning in Manila). Marlins ace Josh Beckett will start against Mike Mussina.

Pettitte nearly recorded his first postseason shutout in 29 starts. Third baseman Aaron Boone's second error of the game, a two-out misplay in the ninth, set up Derrek Lee's RBI single. *AP*

Els prevails, equals Match Play record

VIRGINIA WATER, England—Ernie Els won a record-tying fifth World Match Play title and the 1-million-pound (US$1.67 million) first prize on Sunday, defeating first-time finalist Thomas Bjorn, 4 and 3.

Els was three holes ahead after the first 18 and held on during the second 18 on the West Course at Wentworth despite a hole-in-one by Bjorn late in the match.

Els won three straight in 1994-96 and again last season and matches the five titles won by Gary Player and Seve Ballesteros.

Bjorn, who lives 300 yards from Els at the exclusive Wentworth club just west of London, was too inconsistent to beat the South African.

Even Bjorn's hole-in-one with a 4-iron on the 179-yard 14th—32nd overall—couldn't save the Dane. It postponed the inevitable, leaving Bjorn four holes down with four to play. The shot was also worth a 37,000-pound (US$62,000) car.

Bjorn raised both arms to accept the applause and then said to Els: "Follow that."

It was too late.

"I really played well from tee to green although I lost my putting stroke a little bit but felt in control of my golf," said Els after his seventh win this season. *AP*

It's Maruyama by 5 strokes

GREENSBORO, North Carolina—Shigeki Maruyama joined some elite company with his victory at the Chrysler Classic of Greensboro.

Maruyama became the fourth player on the PGA Tour to win at least one tournament each of the last three seasons with his final-round 67 Sunday, beating Brad Faxon by five shots.

The three other players are Tiger Woods, Jim Furyk and Justin Leonard.

"I'm really happy to be one of those players, to be listed with the big names," Maruyama said.

The average of 25.30 putts per round was the best of Maruyama's career. *AP*

Justine takes No. 1 ranking

ZURICH—Justine Henin-Hardenne was relishing her position as the new world number one on Sunday but said finishing the year in top spot would be tough.

The French and US Open winner beat Jelena Dokic, 6-0, 6-4, in the Swisscom Challenge to take over from Kim Clijsters as number one on Sunday, but the WTA said she would drop to number two again next week because of the way the ranking system works.

The points are so close between Henin-Hardenne and her Belgian compatriot that her decision not to go to Linz in Austria next week will push her back down. *Reuters*

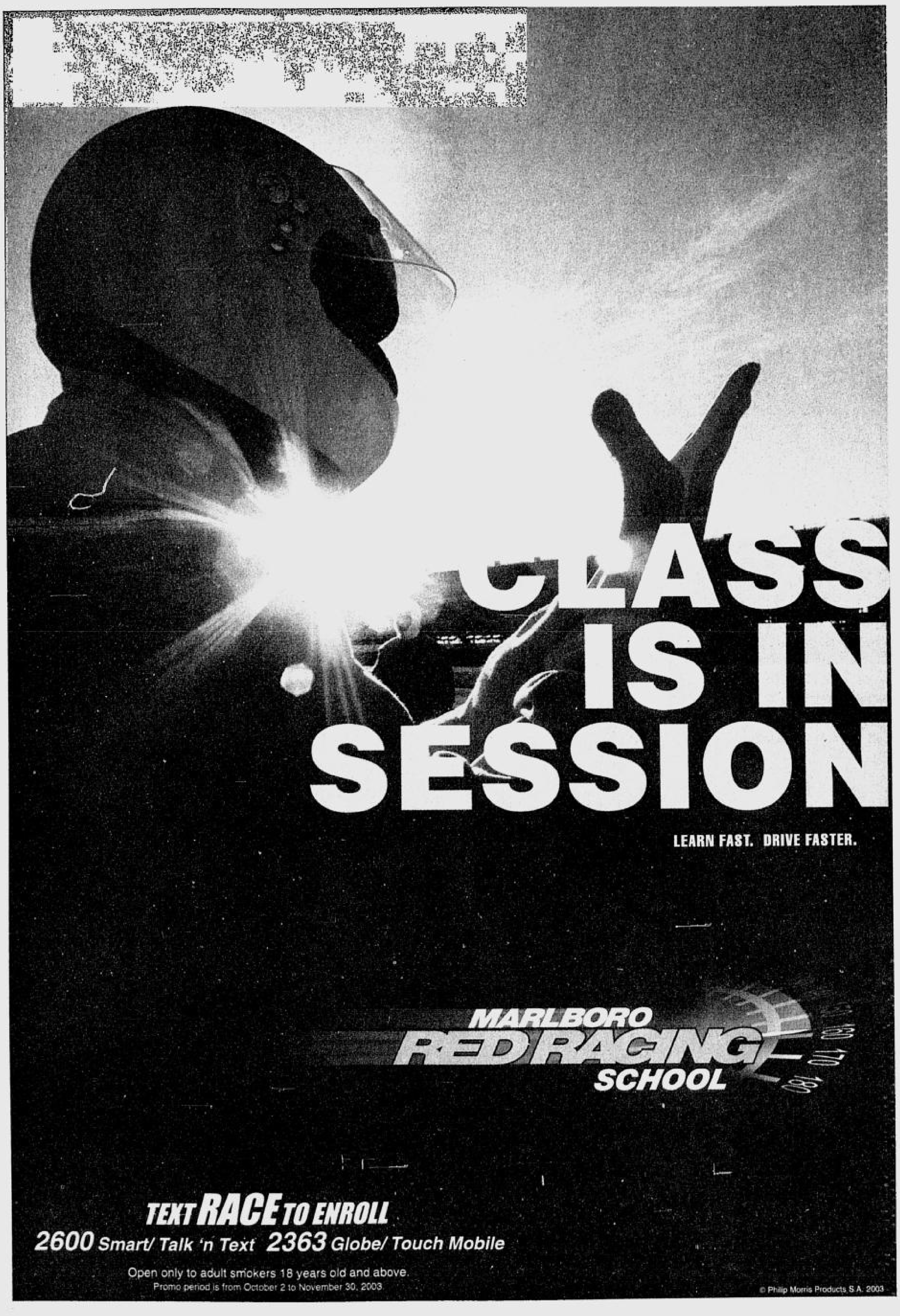
Ferrero wins

MADRID, Spain—World No. 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain broke Nicolas Massu's serve early in each set en route to winning the Tennis Masters Madrid, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

With Sunday's win—Ferrero's fourth this season—the Spaniard overtook Andy Roddick atop the ATP Champions Race with three weeks left in the season.

"I want to finish No. 1," said Ferrero, who won the French Open and was the runner-up at the US Open. "I hope I can do it."

Next month in Australia, Ferrero will lead Spain in the Davis Cup final. *AP*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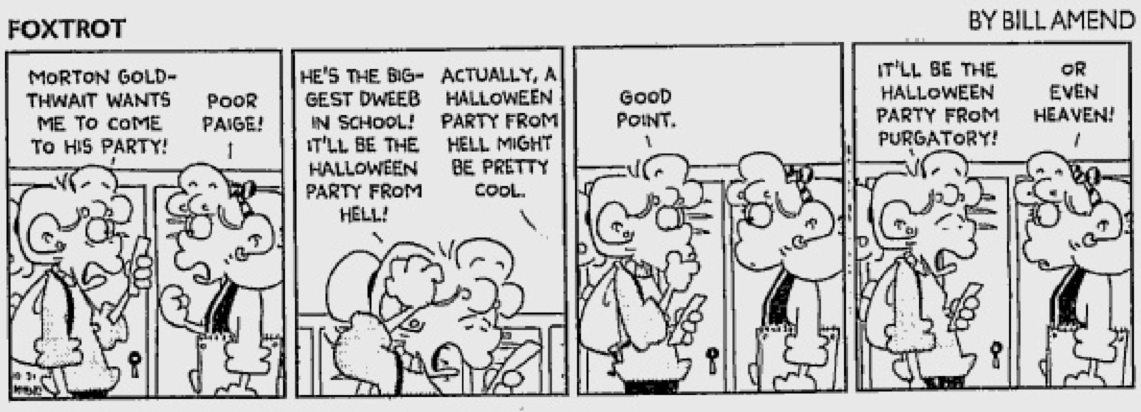
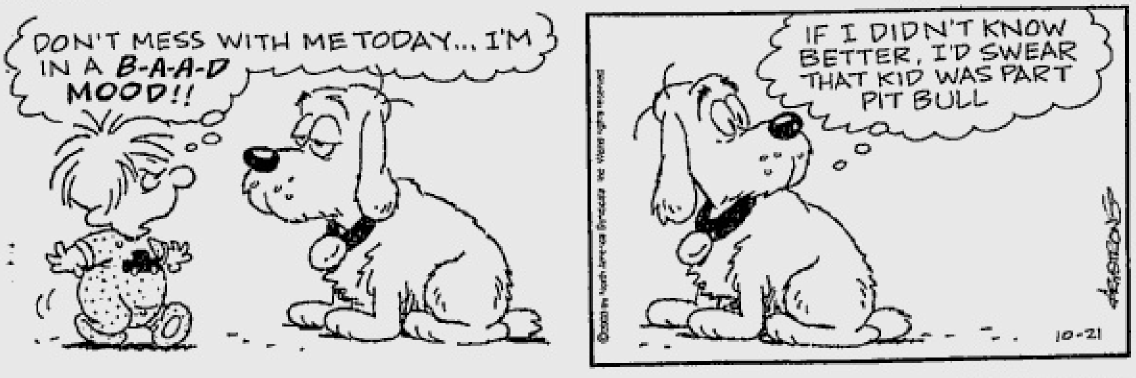
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MORTON GOLDTHWAIT WANTS ME TO COME TO HIS PARTY!
POOR PAIGE!
HE'S THE BIGGEST DWEEB IN SCHOOL! IT'LL BE THE HALLOWEEN PARTY FROM HELL!
ACTUALLY, A HALLOWEEN PARTY FROM HELL MIGHT BE PRETTY COOL.
GOOD POINT.
IT'LL BE THE HALLOWEEN PARTY FROM PURGATORY!
OR EVEN HEAVEN!

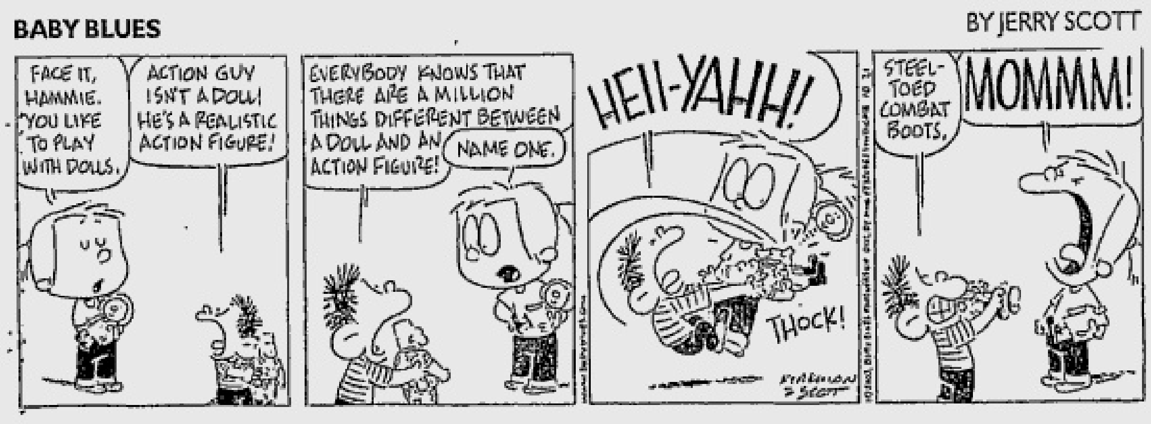
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


DON'T MESS WITH ME TODAY... I'M IN A B-A-A-D MOOD!!
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SWEAR THAT KID WAS PART PIT BULL
10-21

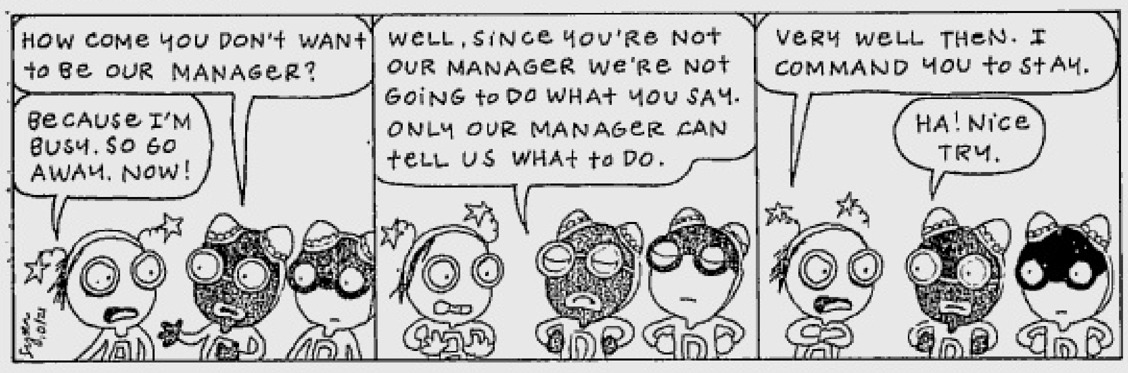
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


FACE IT, HAMMIE. YOU LIKE TO PLAY WITH DOLLS.
ACTION GUY ISN'T A DOLL! HE'S A REALISTIC ACTION FIGURE!
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THERE ARE A MILLION THINGS DIFFERENT BETWEEN A DOLL AND AN ACTION FIGURE!
NAME ONE.
HEII-YAHH!
THOCK!
STEEL-TOED COMBAT BOOTS.
MOMMM!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HOW COME YOU DON'T WANT TO BE OUR MANAGER?
BECAUSE I'M BUSY. SO GO AWAY. NOW!
WELL, SINCE YOU'RE NOT OUR MANAGER WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO WHAT YOU SAY. ONLY OUR MANAGER CAN TELL US WHAT TO DO.
VERY WELL THEN. I COMMAND YOU TO STAY.
HA! NICE TRY.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a highly complex person. Outwardly you are charming, attractive and vital. However, you are strongly emotional. You love to talk, and you're good at it. You inspire others, even when you are completely unaware of it. Expect to say goodbye to things and people in order to start a new cycle next year. **Birthdate of:** Alfred Nobel, chemist/prize founder; Whitey Ford, baseball player; Carrie Fisher, actress/writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This can be an extremely enjoyable day at work. Co-workers are cooperative; you feel witty. In addition to this, business and commerce look well.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day to have fun. Make plans to see a movie, enjoy social times with friends and delight in playful activities with children. Enjoy your day!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel warm and close to family members today. This is a great day to call home or buy a gift for someone. (Generosity within the family is a beautiful and rewarding thing.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your sign is associated with humor. For example, Phyllis Diller has her sign and Moon in Cancer. Today you feel especially witty and easily impress others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a wonderful day for business and commerce. It's also a good day to buy and sell. Shopping can be productive and pleasant. All kinds of financial transactions are worthwhile.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Both the Moon and Jupiter are in your sign today. God's in her heaven, and all's right with the world! You find it easy to be warmhearted and open with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Circumstances around you could trigger feelings of gratitude and appreciation for what you have and who you are. This is good. Appreciation of life is essential.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You will enjoy yourself when talking to friends, groups, clubs, organizations or at conferences today. Any kind of gathering or meeting will be upbeat, positive and agreeable. You've got the common touch.

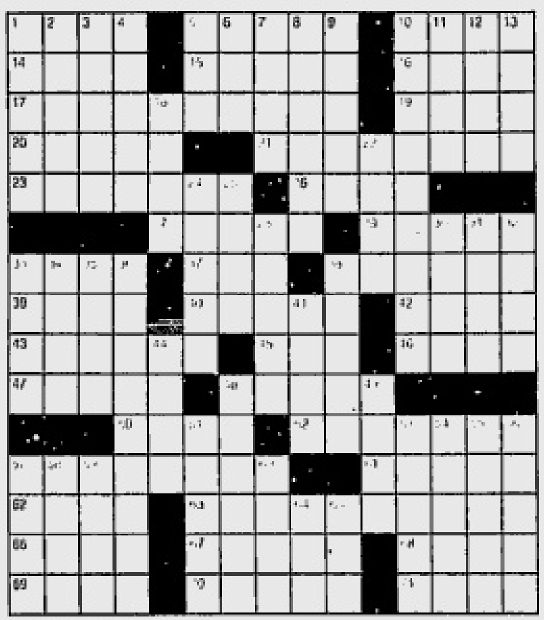
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): People are impressed by your efforts to bring others together in support of something. You know how to rally the troops around the flag.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Travel plans look promising. Similarly, anything having to do with the media, publishing and higher education are also blessed today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's possible that you will receive a gift or a favor from someone today. You definitely stand to benefit from the wealth and consideration of others. Accept what is offered—you deserve it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Enjoy discussions with the public today. Close friends and partners are also warm. You see now that happiness is wanting what you have. (It's a pity it's so easy to forget this.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Sylvia Thompson
Moultrie, GA

10/21/03

ACROSS
1 Regatta blades
5 Make into law
10 Gusted
14 Take a dip
15 Longest French river
16 Singer McCann
17 Powerful punch from a snake?
19 Mil. branch
20 Fireplace
21 York's rank
23 Never growing old
26 Lion's den
27 Trudges
29 Model Campbell
33 Guinness of "Star Wars"
37 Raw mineral
38 Lullaby location
39 Give a new look to
40 Woodland flycatcher
42 Creature comforts
43 Hors d'oeuvre
45 Exist
46 Scandinavian rugs
47 Room
48 Ambition
50 Fabled also-ran
52 String-section member
57 Collapsible telescope section
61 Sri _
62 Apiece
63 Outback guide's snake?
66 Not in favor of
67 Come afterward
68 Stumble
69 Speech impediment
70 Trapshooting
71 Male heirs

DOWN
1 Or else, in music
2 Stupefying
3 Fingerprint line
4 Aroma
5 Lilly or Wallach
6 Sine qua _
7 Helps out
8 Fishing baskets
9 Latin land
10 Snake for a sad sprinter?
11 Writer Alther
12 Enthusiasm
13 Float on the wind
18 Shed tears
22 Marchetti or Cappelletti
24 Incline
25 Tender
28 Thermos inventor
30 Give sanction to
31 Flat-topped formation
32 Furies
33 Curves
34 Jump
35 Novelist Ferber
36 Snake crop?
38 Author of "Still Me"
41 Actor Stoltz
44 Bog fuel
48 Expose as false
49 Jazzy Fitzgerald
51 Yahoos
53 Continues on and on
54 Opening bars
55 Flock of geese
56 Infield covers
57 Settlement
58 Rajah's consort
59 Play divisions
60 Latin being
64 Shade
65 NYC opera house

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	C	M	E	■	E	R	G	O	■	F	O	C	A	L
T	H	E	M	■	G	A	I	N	■	B	L	A	M	E
B	A	M	B	O	O	Z	L	E	■	I	D	L	E	S
A	R	O	A	R	■	E	D	A	M	■	S	A	N	S
T	O	S	S	E	D	■	S	C	A	R	A	B	■	■
■	■	■	S	L	E	D	■	T	R	I	L	O	G	Y
B	A	B	Y	■	L	O	P	■	O	C	T	O	P	I
R	I	O	■	B	U	G	A	B	O	O	■	S	A	P
A	D	O	R	E	S	■	W	O	N	■	B	F	S	S
N	E	M	E	S	I	S	■	P	E	S	O	■	■	■
■	■	E	A	T	O	U	T	■	D	A	Y	S	P	A
M	A	R	L	■	N	I	N	E	■	A	C	H	E	S
A	G	A	I	N	■	T	O	L	L	B	O	O	T	H
G	O	N	Z	O	■	O	T	O	E	■	T	R	E	E
E	G	G	E	D	■	R	E	N	T	■	T	E	R	N

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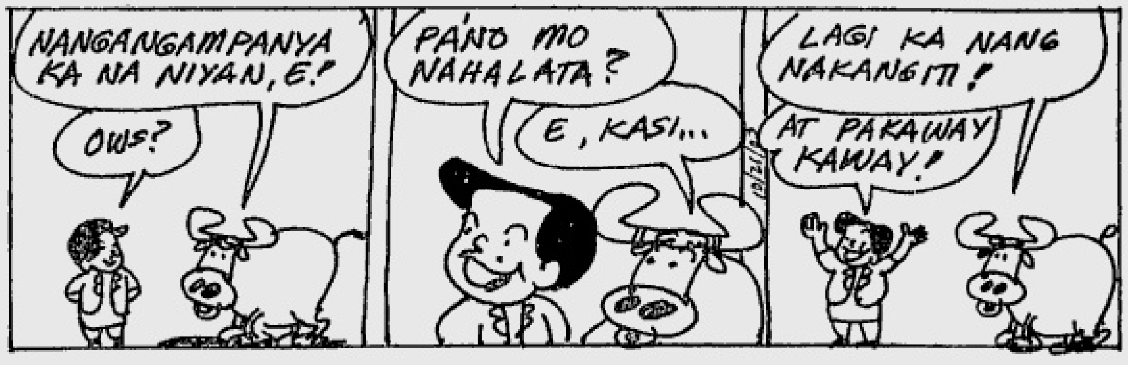
10/21/03

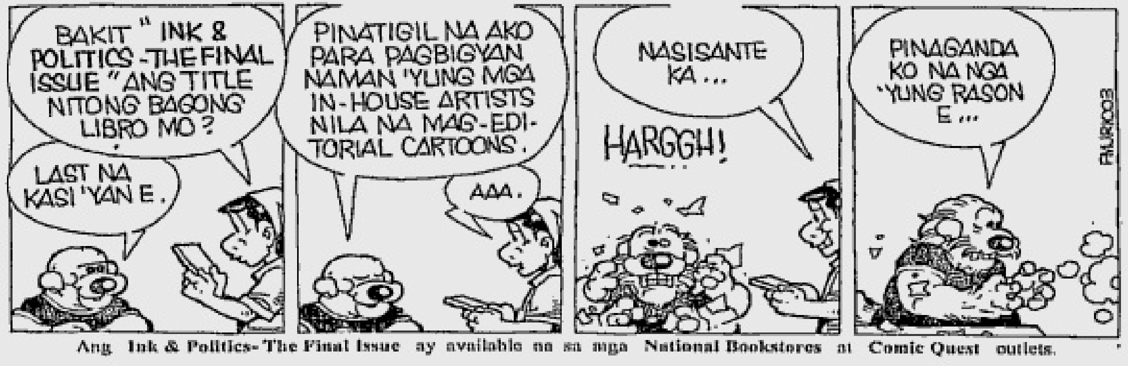
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NANGANGAMPANYA KA NA NIYAN, E.!
OWS?
PA'NO MO NAHALATA?
E, KASI...
LAGI KA NANG NAKANGITI!
AT PAKAWAY KAWAY!

PUGAD BABOY

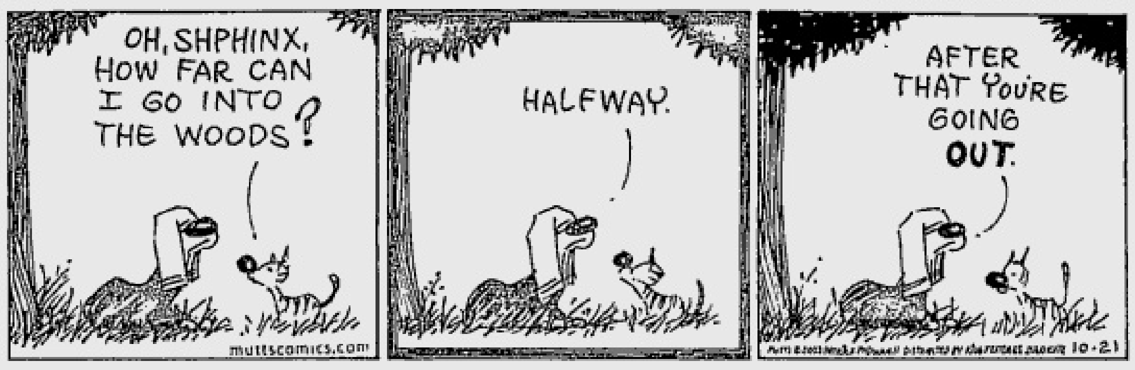
BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT "INK & POLITICS -THE FINAL ISSUE" ANG TITLE NITONG BAGONG LIBRO MO?
LAST NA KASI 'YAN E.
PINATIGIL NA AKO PARA PAGBIGYAN NAMAN 'YUNG MGA IN-HOUSE ARTISTS NILA NA MAG-EDITORIAL CARTOONS.
AAA.
NASISANTE KA...
HARGGH!
PINAGANDA KO NA NGA 'YUNG RASON E...

Ang Ink & Politics- The Final Issue ay available na sa mga National Bookstores at Comic Quest outlets.

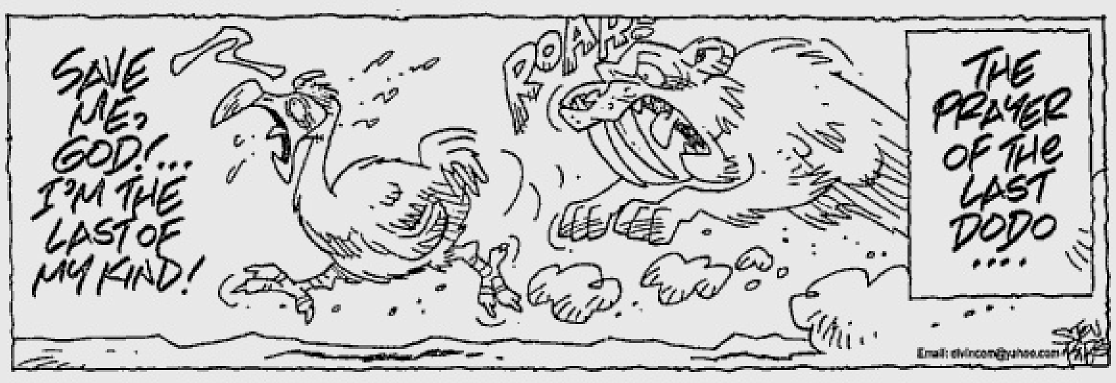
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, SHPHINX, HOW FAR CAN I GO INTO THE WOODS?
HALFWAY.
AFTER THAT YOU'RE GOING OUT.
muttscomics.com
10-21

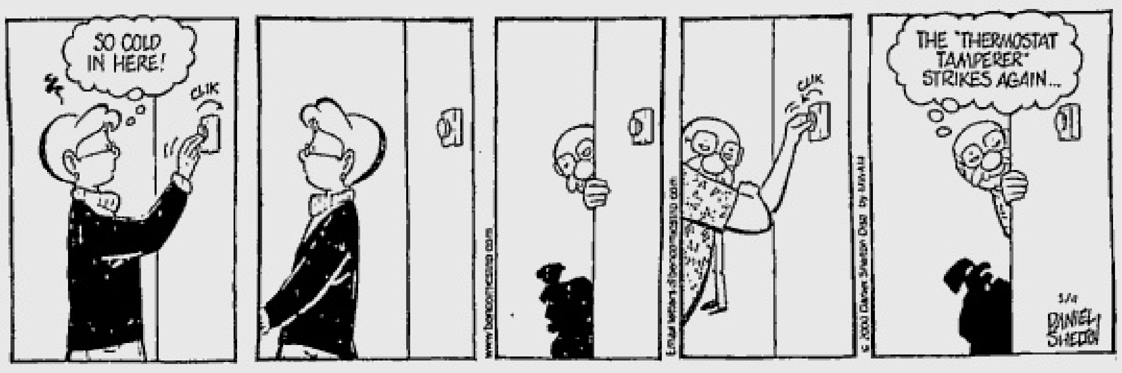
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SAVE ME, GOD!... I'M THE LAST OF MY KIND!
ROAR!
THE PRAYER OF THE LAST DODO....
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

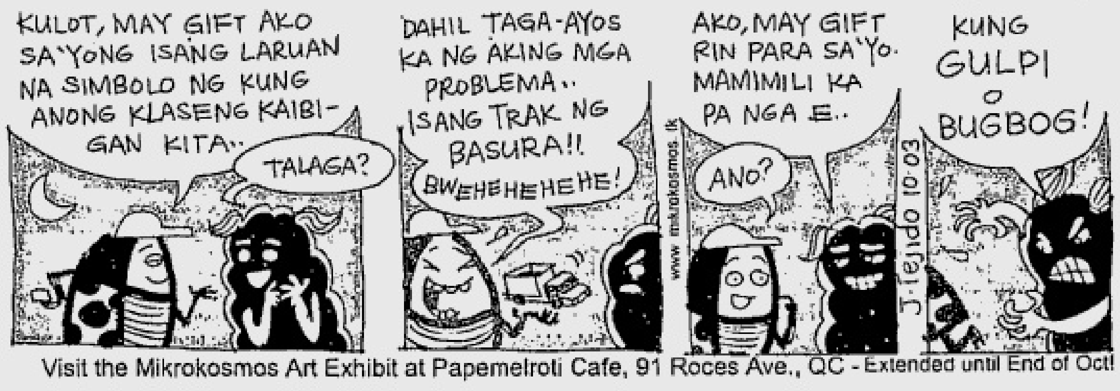
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO COLD IN HERE!
CLIK
CLIK
THE "THERMOSTAT TAMPERER" STRIKES AGAIN...
DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS

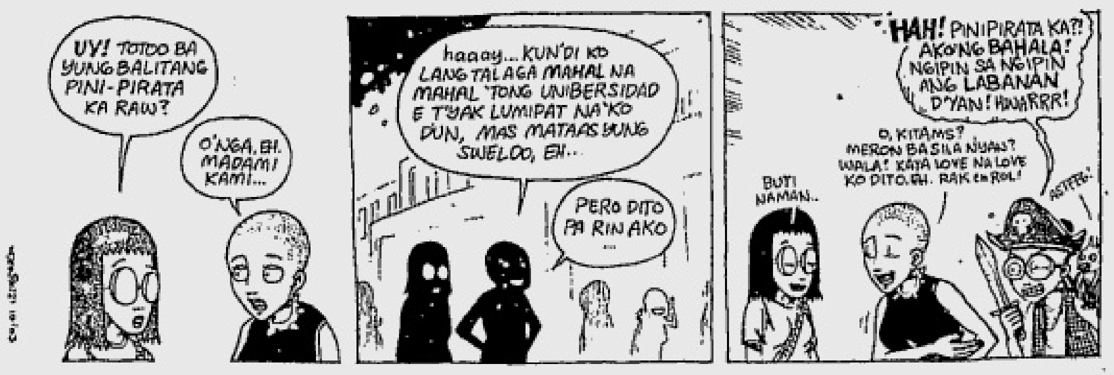
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KULOT, MAY GIFT AKO SA'YONG ISANG LARUAN NA SIMBOLO NG KUNG ANONG KLASENG KAIBIGAN KITA..
TALAGA?
DAHIL TAGA-AYOS KA NG AKING MGA PROBLEMA.. ISANG TRAK NG BASURA!!
BWEHEHEHEHE!
AKO, MAY GIFT RIN PARA SA'YO. MAMIMILI KA PA NGA E..
ANO?
KUNG GULPI O BUGBOG!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 10-03

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Extended until End of Oct!

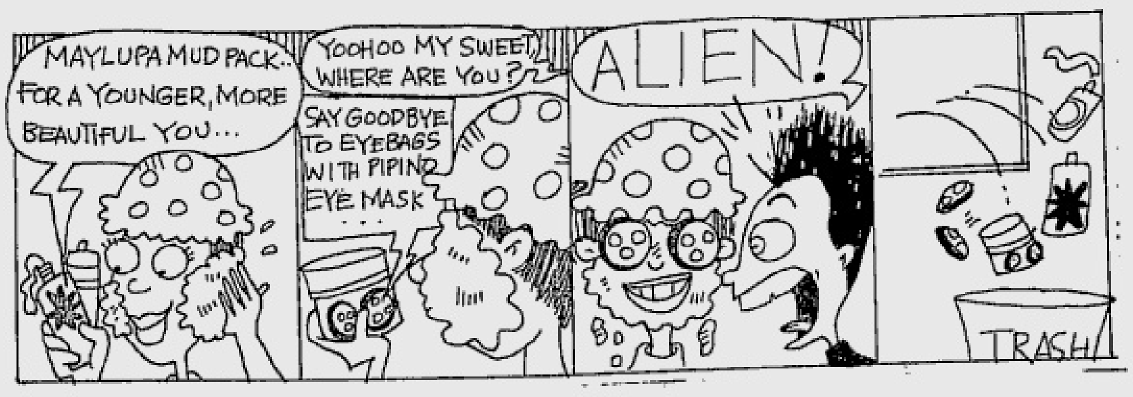
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY! TOTOO BA YUNG BALITANG PINI-PIRATA KA RAW?
O'NGA, EH. MADAMI KAMI...
haaay... KUN'DI KO LANG TALAGA MAHAL NA MAHAL 'TONG UNIBERSIDAD E T'YAK LUMIPAT NA'KO DUN, MAS MATAAS YUNG SWELDO, EH..
PERO DITO PA RIN AKO
HAH! PINIPIRATA KA?! AKO'NG BAHALA! NGIPIN SA NGIPIN ANG LABANAN D'YAN! HWARRR!
O, KITAMS? MERON BA SILA NYAN? WALA! KAYA LOVE NA LOVE KO DITO.EH. RAK en ROL!
BUTI NAMAN..

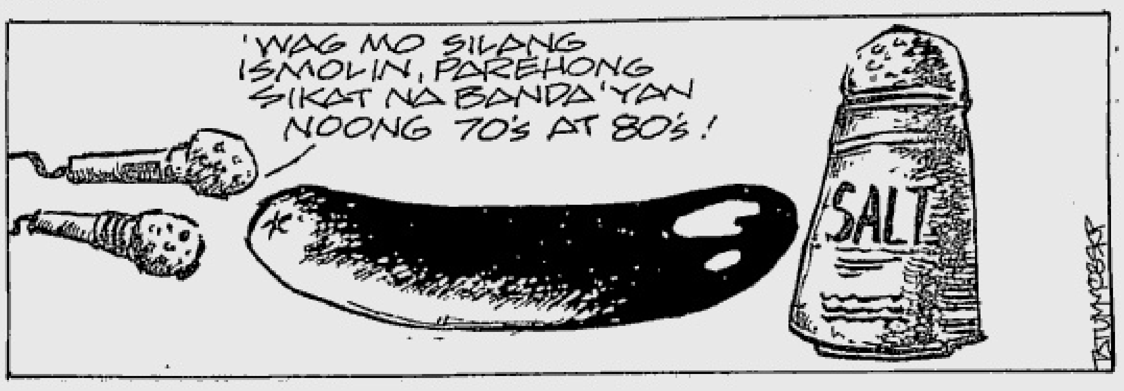
FURRY LOGIC

BY SUZIE AND CALVIN


MAYLUPA MUD PACK.. FOR A YOUNGER, MORE BEAUTIFUL YOU...
YOOHOO MY SWEET, WHERE ARE YOU?
SAY GOODBYE TO EYEBAGS WITH PIPINO EYE MASK...
ALIEN!
TRASH

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG MO SILANG ISMOLIN, PAREHONG SIKAT NA BANDA 'YAN NOONG 70's AT 80's!
SALT
TATUM

SHOW TIME

Actors, singers perform as 'One'

ML ENTERTAINMENT is staging "One," on Nov. 22 at the Folk Arts Theater.

"One" is the sequel to the successful spiritual concert, "One for the Soul."

Some of the artists who will perform in "One" are Verni Varga, Anna Fegi, Franco Laurel, Luke Mejares and Ayen Munji-Laurel, with the special participation of Paolo Santos.

In the ensemble are Edward Granadosin, Reuben Laurente, Carlo Orosa, Eric Antonio, Joel Trinidad, Roy Rolloda, Ricci Chan, Roden Araneta, Alvin John de la Peña, Sheila Francisco, Gigi Posadas, Tex Ordoñez, Lana Jaloslos, Mayen Bustamante, Mylene Evangelista, Stella Cañete, Tricia Jimenez and Luchie Huang.

The dancers are Ellezer Canlas, Jay Dyogi, Stanley Cañete, Joseph Laforteza, Cecile Martinez, Tintin Limjap, Liza Chingcuangco, Camille Joson, Alvin Aficionado and Ayi Vega. Completing the cast are talented kids Yela Laurel, Yanyan Laurel, Sam Concepcion, Vincent Ching, Kathleen Francisco and Cheska Ortega.

"One" features the stories of different characters, told through songs and woven together by musical director Danny Tan.

Stage direction is by Ayen Munji-Laurel.

Also in the creative team are Melvin Lee, assistant director; Edna Vida, Andy Alviz and James Laforteza, choreographers; Gino Gonzales, production designer; Gerry Fernandez, lights designer; Willy Munji, sound designer; and Ed Nepomuceno, vocal director.

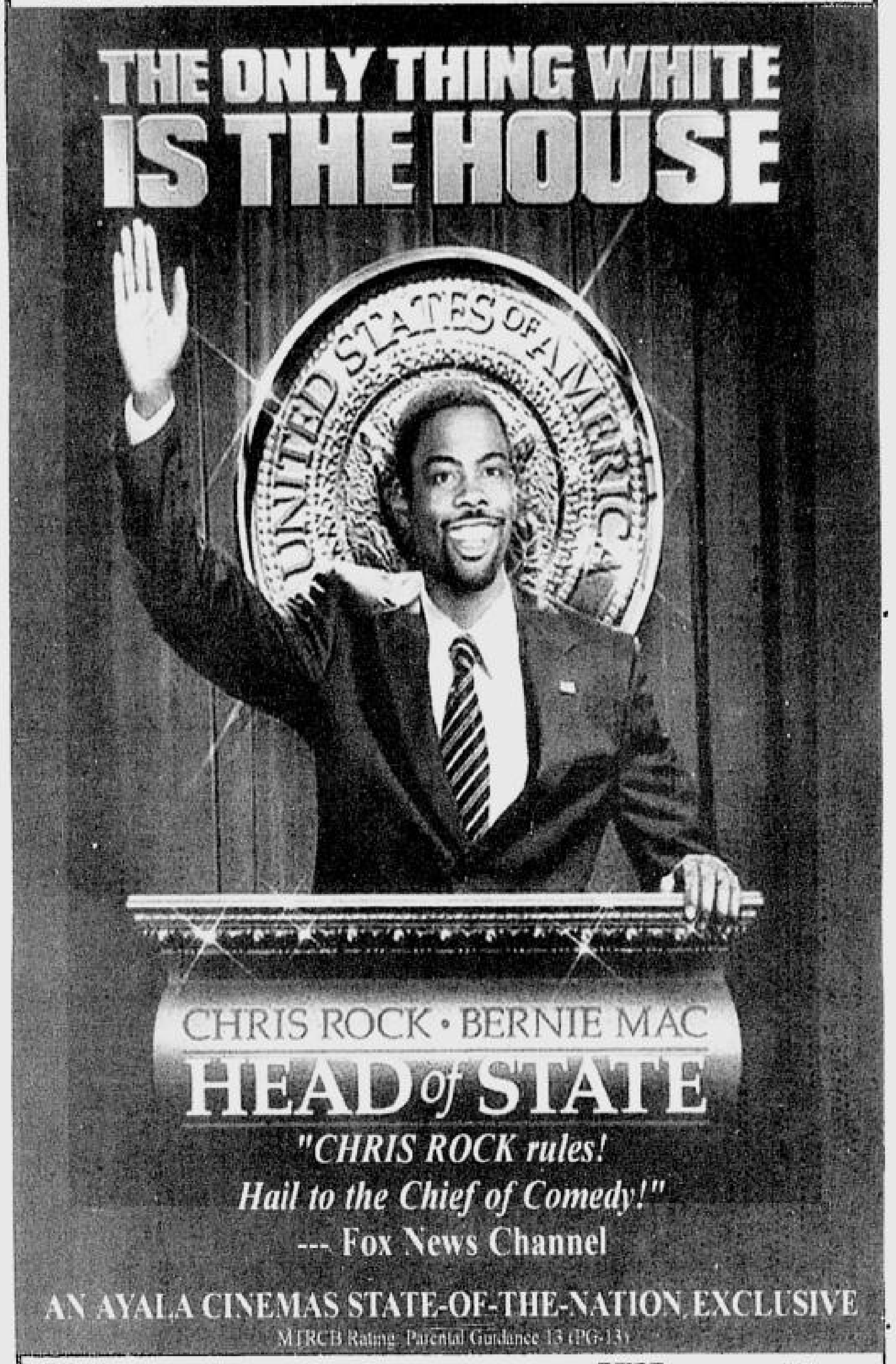
Costumes for the leads are created by Fanny Serrano, Joji Loren, JC Buendia, Maxi Cinco and Paul Cabral.

For inquiries about the show, call ML Entertainment at 638-7776. For sponsorships, call Syndicated Specialists at 925-7104.

DID YOU KNOW...

Actor and martial arts expert **Monsour del Rosario** and his taekwondo friends were seen Friday night at the Luau Bar and Grill on Kamagong Street in Makati enjoying their beef steak Tagalog, plain *tokwa*, green mango and *bagoong*, and beer.

OPENS TOMORROW EXCLUSIVELY AT
GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS



"CHRIS ROCK rules!
Hail to the Chief of Comedy!"
--- Fox News Channel

AN AYALA CINEMAS STATE-OF-THE-NATION EXCLUSIVE
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

United International Pictures · VIVA · AYALA CINEMAS

MTRCB PG-13

THE ROCK
SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT
CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
ROSARIO DAWSON
THE RUNDOWN
BULLS, GUNS, WHIPS, GOLD AND ONE SACRED CAT

New Int'l Action Superstar is born!

Wrestling champ The Rock, next Schwarzenegger in 'RUNDOWN'?

Seven-time world wrestling champion The Rock (SCORPION KING, THE MUMMY RETURNS) is star of THE RUNDOWN, a spectacular crowd-pleasing, no-holds-barred, jungle-action adventure, and the No. 1 movie in America.

The testosterone-packed movie launches The Rock as an international Action Superstar a la Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger shows his support for The Rock as the politics- bound action hero appears briefly in the slam-bang action comedy.

The Rock (or Dwayne Johnson) is Beck, a bounty hunter assigned to retrieve a wise-cracking double dealer played by Seann William Scott (Stiller in the American Pie movies), who is on a treasure hunt deep in the Brazilian jungle.

The Rundown features The Rock in a series of jaw-dropping fight scenes, including an eye-popping rumble in the jungle with our very own Ernie Reyes Jr., Fil-Am martial arts champion.

Simultaneously in Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cag. de Oro

OPENS TOMORROW NATION-WIDE!

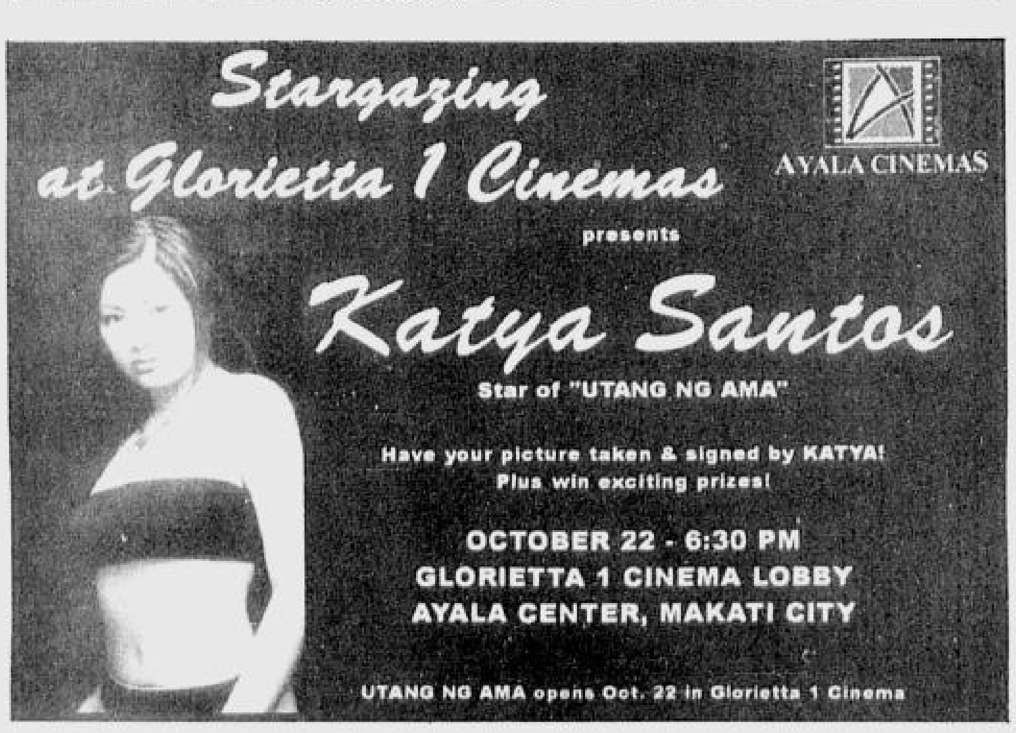
Pelikula
10.16-26

AYALA CINEMAS

Titulo
En Construccion
El Ultimo Viaje De Robert Rylands
Martin Hache
El Bola
La Comunidad
Sin Verguenza
It's For You
Silvia Prieto

Spanish Film Festival

For inquiries, pls. cal 752-7872



Star of "UTANG NG AMA"

Have your picture taken & signed by KATYA!
Plus win exciting prizes!

OCTOBER 22 - 6:30 PM
GLORIETTA 1 CINEMA LOBBY
AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY

UTANG NG AMA opens Oct. 22 in Glorietta 1 Cinema

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 FREAKY FRIDAY	1 UNDERWORLD	ArtFilm 1 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 MATCHSTICK MEN 1:30 4:00 6:30, 9:00 11:30	THX 1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	2 THE SUSPECT	2 FREAKY FRIDAY 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:05 11:15	2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
3 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 UNDERWORLD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	3 MATCHSTICK MEN
4 BUGBOG SARADO	4 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE SUSPECT 1:20 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 UNDERWORLD
	5 HOW TO DEAL		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 FREAKY FRIDAY 1:30 3:30 5:30 [illegible]	5 THE SUSPECT
	6 FREAKY FRIDAY			
	7 MATCHSTICK MEN			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 UNDERWORLD
2 GIGLI
3 AMERICAN PIE
4 MATCHSTICK MEN
5 THE SUSPECT
6 FREAKY FRIDAY
7 SPY KIDS
8 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
9 BUGBOG SARADO
10 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 · 833.3274
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 TREK
3 PRINSIPE AT SERENA

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 VISIBLE SECRET
2 BOMBA QUEEN
3 THE SUSPECT
4 DOLBY DIGITAL HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
5 BUGBOG SARADO

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 PILYA
2 VISIBLE SECRET
3 UNDERWORLD
4 BUGBOG SARADO
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 MATCHSTICK MEN

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004
1
2

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2 ASBOOBS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1 BUGBOG SARADU
2 BLOCK THUNDER
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 VISIBLE SECRET 2
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 MATCHSTICK MEN
8 FREAKY FRIDAY
9 THE SUSPECT

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 UNDERWORLD
5 PRINSIPE AT SERENA
6 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
7 VISIBLE SECRET 2
8 KATAS
9 KISKISAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 PRINSIPE AT SERENA
2 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
5 UNDERWORLD

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 PRINSIPE AT SERENA
4 PILYA
5 UNDERWORLD

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
Lords MASARAP MAINIT
Jennet RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 PRINSIPE AT SERENA
4 UNDERWORLD

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 MATCHSTICK MEN
2 PRINSIPE AT SERENA
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 BUGBOG SARADO
5 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PRINSIPE AT SERENA
2 TREK

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 UNDERWORLD
4 THE SUSPECT
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 AMERICAN PIE
7 MATCHSTICK MEN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0026
1 PILYA
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 FREAKY FRIDAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE
4 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE
4 BUGBOG SARADO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 HOW TO DEAL
2 MEDALLION
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 FREDDY VS. JASON
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 HOW TO DEAL

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 MOTEL
3 GOLDEN BULLET
4 DARK DANCER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 DARK WATER
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 PILYA
5 TAKE MY BODY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 KISKISAN
2 PILYA
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 MR. BONES
3 BUGBOG SARADO

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1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4 HOW TO DEAL

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 PILYA
2 KATAS
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 KATAS
2 MEDALLION
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 AMERICAN PIE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 AMERICAN PSYCHO
3 AMERICAN PIE
4 TREK

Cine Nepo Mall
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2 WALKING UP IN RENO
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
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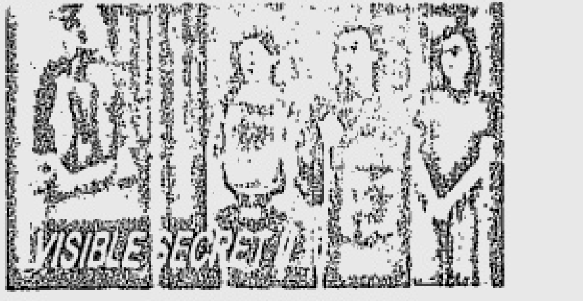

NOW SHOWING

MISS EARTH 2003

Afghanistan joins beauty contest again after 30 years

By Marinel R. Cruz

AFGHANISTAN is joining a beauty contest again after 30 years and more than a year after the collapse of the country's Taliban government, which prohibited Afghan women from wearing clothes that revealed too much skin.

Vida Samadzai of Afghanistan will wear a swimsuit and compete with 60 other young women from other countries for the Miss Earth title, according to contest organizers.

The pageant finals will be on Nov. 9, starting at 8:30 p.m., at the UP Theater in Diliman, Quezon City.

Taliban religious leaders insisted that females cover themselves from head to toe in *burqas* when they ventured out in public.

Vida and the other Miss Earth contestants will be presented to the media on Thursday, 11 a.m., at the poolside of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila in Makati City.

Vida is only the second Miss Afghanistan, the first being Zohra Dauod who was crowned in 1972.

Zohra is now based in Malibu.

Vida, 25, was born and raised in Afghanistan. She went to the United States in 1996 to study associative arts at the Irvine Valley College in California.

She is now a junior bachelor of arts student at the Fullerton College, also in California.

She helped form the US-based Afghan Woman Organization, which aims to educate Afghan women on their rights and raise funds for educational facilities being put up in key areas in Afghanistan.

"My country wants peace more than anything," Vida told INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday. "We see this pageant as one way of implementing change in Afghanistan, which is now in the process of reconstruction."

Vida arrived in Manila from the US last Oct. 19.

"Preserving the environment is the major thrust of the Miss Earth pageant," said the Afghan beauty. "I want to be able to implement the things that I would learn from my visit here in my country which is heavily damaged by war."

She and other Afghan Woman Organization delegates will fly to Afghanistan in November for a series of lectures sponsored by the new government.

SAMADZAI. "My country wants peace more than anything."

Negative effects of colonial mentality

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SINCE the Philippines has been colonized by different foreign powers for hundreds of years, Filipinos have been conditioned to think more highly of "imported" cultures than their own.

Centuries later, this tendency to look up at foreign products and look down on ourselves is still prevalent in our actuations today. Show business is particularly vulnerable in this regard, since entertainment images reflect our conditioned mind-set and reflexes in a vividly iconic way.

At its most basic, colonial mentality is evident in our preference for "blockbuster" Hollywood movies over the "shoddy" local variety. And for stars with Caucasian features over the *kayumanggi, pango*-nosed performers.

There was a time when their equation shifted the other way around, when the Manila Film Festival proved that local movies were viewable, and the phenomenal Nora Aunor became more popular than the *tisoy* stars in the '70s. But these pop-cultural coups were eventually compromised by laziness and callow accommodation, so we're now back to square one, with *tisoy* stars reigning supreme once more, and Hollywood hits once more relegating most Filipino films to the sidelines.

All this wouldn't really bother us all that much (to each his own cluelessness, after all), were it not for the fact that it is symptomatic of the larger malaise that has the country and its people in its constricting grip.

This basic flaw is partly to blame for the country's failure to fulfill its potential, solve its basic problems, stop continually shooting itself in the foot and finally come into its own.

Now, *that's* genuine cause for concern, you'll agree. So, let's face up to the negative effects of our stubborn colonial mentality, and try to counteract them with radical paradigm shifts that will make us view ourselves as we really are, rather than as second-hand clones and drones of a seemingly endless series of pop-cultural "invaders":

First and most basic paradigm shift: "Imported" isn't necessarily better. Trends from abroad don't have to be slavishly imitated. If you imitate them, it doesn't necessarily make you better and more with-it than the next guy.

Don't try to be like anybody else, know yourself so you can be confident about being yourself. Now, this *is* the hard part, because it requires you to face up to the good and bad aspects of yourself—and that takes some doing, especially for somebody so used (translation: conditioned, and therefore addicted) to seeing himself through the jaundiced eyes of others, especially foreigners.

Don't rely on anybody other than yourself. This is another hard saying because we've been told for such a long time that we should be dependent on help and "guidance" from abroad.

But we've got to get over all that conditioning toward self-doubt and subservience, and focus on our plus points, which are good enough to work for us without the help of the usual benevolent others.

After having developed this psychological self-sufficiency, don't be afraid to act alone, *contra mundum,* to achieve your own objectives. Expect a lot of opposition from the very people who oh, so "benevolently" guided you before, because you have now shorn them of power. But act, anyway.

If we don't manage these paradigm shifts, we'll be trapped in our own lack of self-esteem, unable to escape from the "mental colony" that has been our spurious birthright from our colonizers.

So, don't think that our tirades against our slavish adherence to local show biz trends are excessive. We're merely pointing out the symptoms of the more basic illness that has stunted our growth as an audience, as artists, and as a people. The time to act, and actualize ourselves, is now.

'Ice Age'

THE POPULAR animated feature will be shown on Star Movies at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 24, 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 25 and 9 p.m. on Oct 30. The wacky film about prehistoric animals is voiced by **Ray Romano, Denis Leary** and **John Leguizamo.**

'Uptown Girls'

BRITTANY Murphy and **Dakota Fanning** star in the new comedy film, "Uptown Girls." Brittany plays a spoiled, rich woman who is forced to get a job and ends up working as Dakota's nanny.

1st commercial...

From page A25

"It was very challenging," said Charlene, "but everyone was so supportive. They really took care of the kids."

By this time, Atasha was also cozying up to the cameras, playing and screaming along with her brother.

The whole time, Charlene was divided between answering questions and looking after her twins, who have been running all over the function room.

Charlene also learned an important thing from doing the ad with her show biz-savvy kids.

"I realized," she said, "that they're not scared of people. They seem to be enjoying the attention."

CHARLENE is uneasy that the twins are "naturals" before the cameras, but Aga is "more worried."

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Tribe of Levi, spiders, loot bags at NSG

NATIONAL Sports Grill (NSG) has "Spiders in a Jar" until Oct. 30. Guess the number of spiders and win four tickets to Enchanted Kingdom.

On Wednesday, Oct. 22, NSG and Joey@92.3 present Tribe of Levi, which will perform starting at 8 p.m.

Loot bags for the kids courtesy of Nestlé Cereals, Nestlé Ice Cream and Timezone will be distributed on Oct. 25, 26 and 30.

National Sports Grill is on the third floor of Greenbelt 1 in Makati City.

For reservations, call 752-5431 or visit www.nsg.ph.

SHOW TIME

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BUGBOG SARADO
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-2	TREK
CINEMA-3	PILYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HOW TO DEAL
CINEMA-6	KISKISAN
CINEMA-7	PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
CINEMA-8	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATCHSTICK MEN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THE SUSPECT
CINEMA-12	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-14	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-15	BUGBOG SARADO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-2	FREDDY VS. JASON
CINEMA-4	PILYA
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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Celebrity Premieres today at SM Megamall Cinema 9 (7:30 p.m.)
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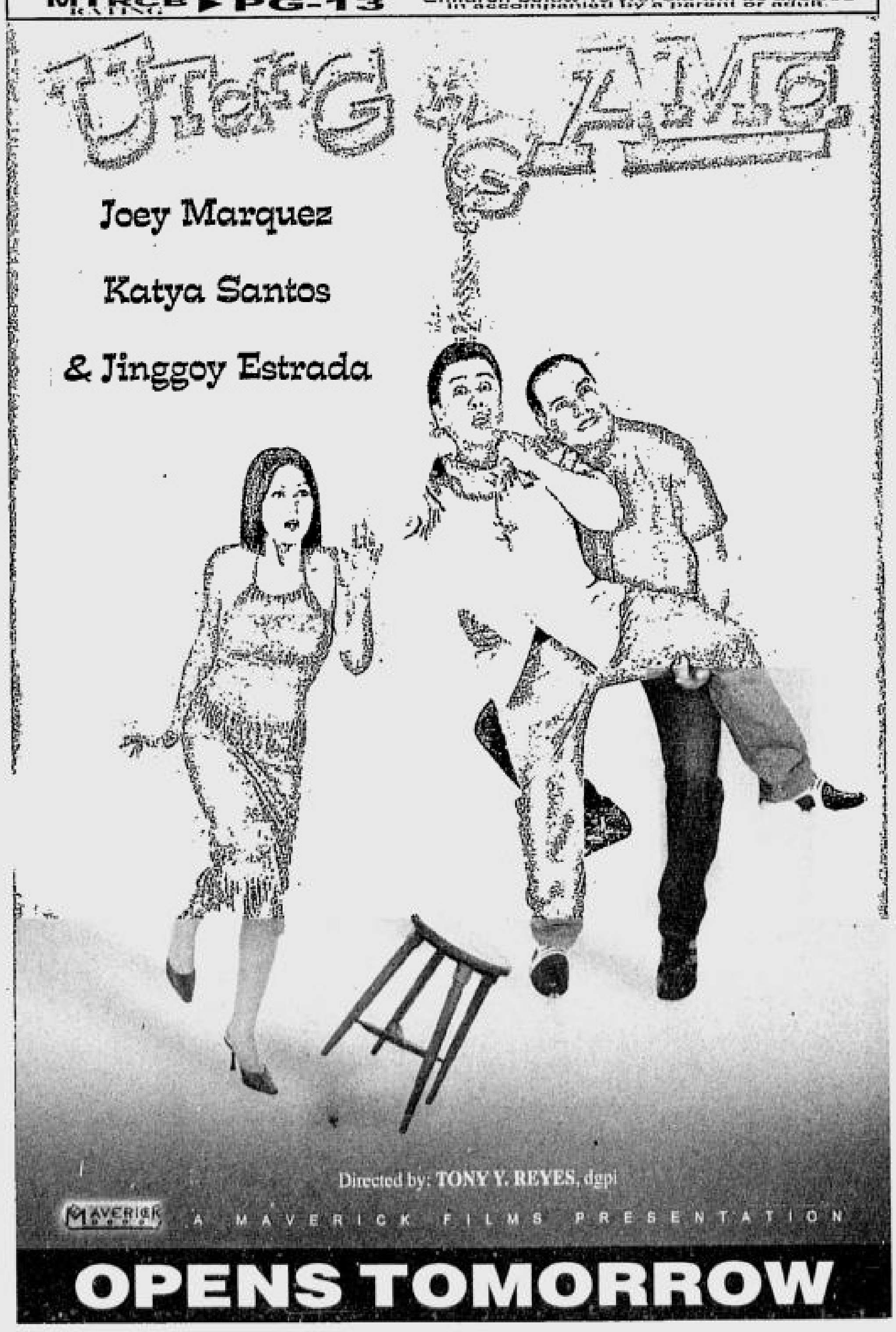

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	BUGBOG SARADO
Ali 2	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
Ali 3	UNDERWORLD
Ali 4	THE SUSPECT
Ali 5	FREAKY FRIDAY
Ali 6	AMERICAN PIE
Ali 7	MATCHSTICK MEN
ARANETA COLISEUM	
OCT 22	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 25	DZRJ'S 40TH GRAND REUNION
OCT 26	PBA: STA. LUCIA VS. PUREFOODS
OCT 27	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 29	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY

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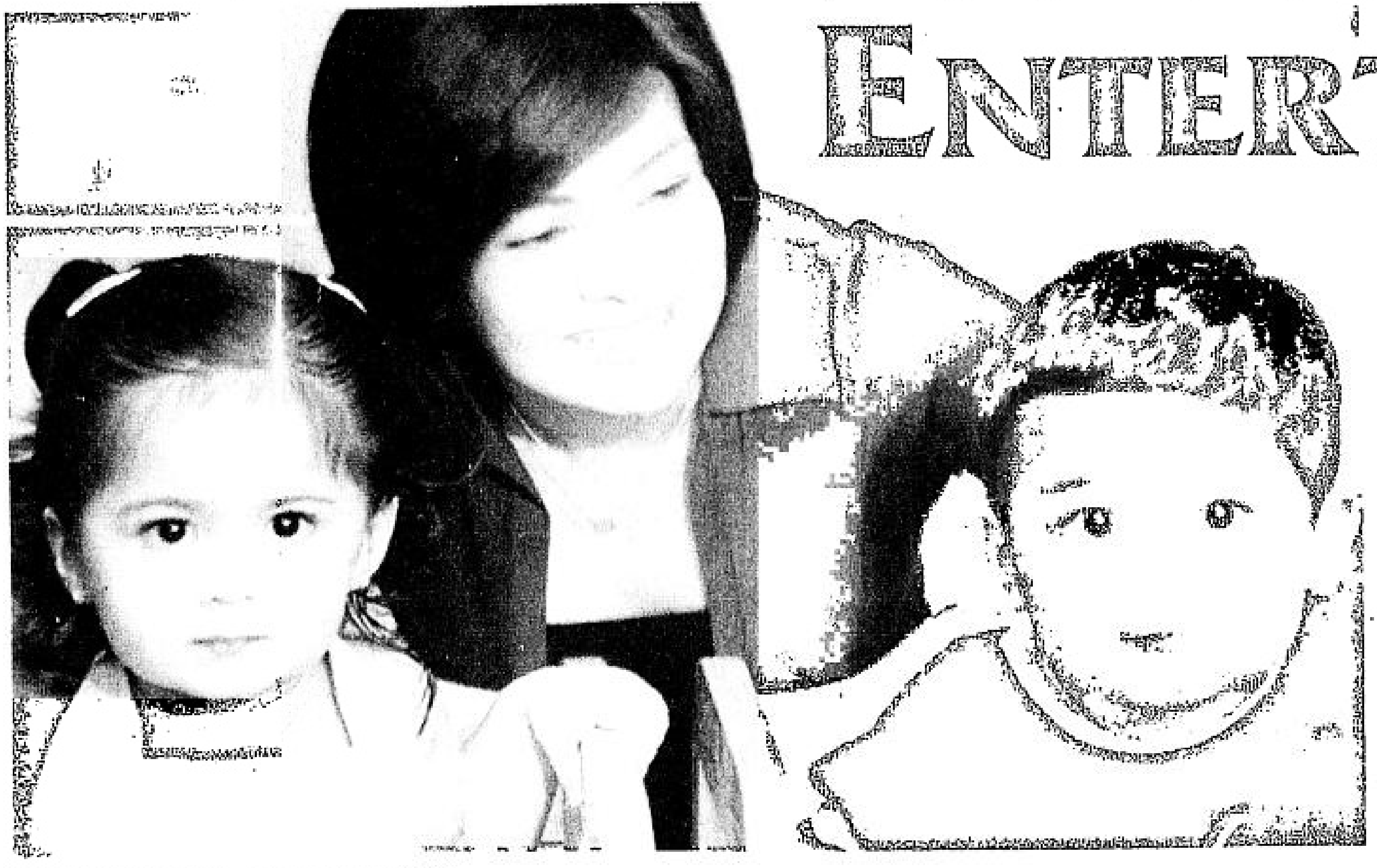


CELEBRITY KIDS Atasha and Andres are enjoying the attention, says their supermom.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

1st commercial of Aga-Charlene twins 'may be their last'

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

ATASHA and Andres, the 2-year-old wonder twins of Charlene Gonzales and Aga Muhlach, think celebrity is "normal," according to their supermom.

Charlene said the twins are apparently getting used to their parents' celebrity status since the kids see her and Aga's faces practically everywhere.

"Honestly, they think it is normal," said Charlene. "They often see Aga on the Jollibee posters and commercials."

The twins themselves, who became stars as soon as they were born, are now endorsers themselves. They and their beauty-queen mom are the stars of the new 30-second commercial for Prokids diapers. The commercial, entitled "Perfect," is the first of two ads featuring the twins and is directed by renowned commercial director Mike Alcazaren.

During the commercial's launch last week at the Manila Peninsula, Charlene said Atasha and Andres took to the camera naturally, which worries her a bit.

"Unfortunately," she added, "Aga is more worried about this development."

She said she and Aga would allow their energetic and charismatic offspring to enter show biz on one condition: "Their studies will be first. It's also possible that this is their last (celebrity appearance)," she added, referring to the Prokids commercial.

Charlene admitted she was a little nervous because it was the first ad launch she was doing with her little bundles of joy.

At the launch, the arrival of the wide-eyed twins and their mom was greeted with a barrage of camera flashes. This initially didn't sit too well with Atasha, who retreated to her nanny's arms. Andres, however, was in a good mood and seemed to bask in the attention of the photographers and onlookers: He quickly smiled at them.

When Andres watched the commercial on a monitor, he was delighted to see some very familiar faces, exclaiming "Mama, mama!" and grinning from ear to ear. When the commercial faded out, he was puzzled and asked, "No more?" The ad was then shown again, and Andres was ecstatic again and screamed with glee upon fadeout.

Different temperaments

The commercial shoot took two days in September, each day consisting of almost nine hours, including siesta time for the babies.

Shooting had to be postponed because either the twins got sick, or stylist Fanny Serrano did. But those were the only hitches, and the show otherwise proceeded like clockwork.

Although having twins as her firstborn is difficult, she and Aga are managing nicely with the pair of blessings, according to Charlene.

"It's really hard," said the former Bb. Pilipinas-Universe. "It's double time. They have different personalities and different temperaments. We treat them as equals."

She admitted that even when she was still pregnant, various companies had been offering contracts for her and the kid—or kids, as it turned out—to be commercial endorsers.

McCann Erickson creative director Mickey Domingo claimed that producing the ads was a breeze for everyone involved. "It was very easy. The twins were so comfortable in front of the camera. It was so natural for them. The beauty of it was, there was no acting going on. The kids and the mom were just being themselves."

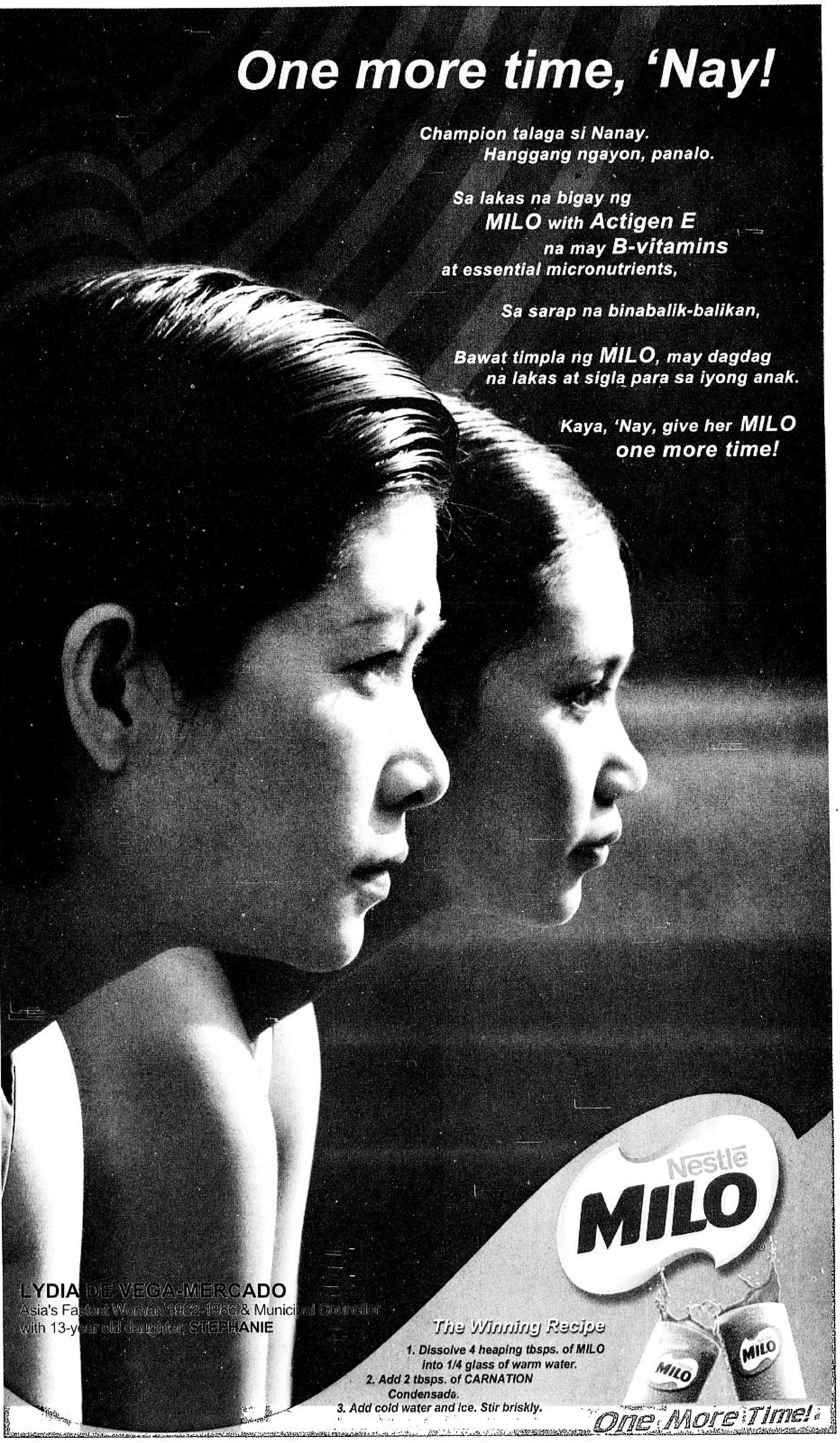
Cool despite child-rearing

Picking Charlene was a no-brainer, according to Domingo. "Childbearing and child-rearing can wreak havoc on a woman's appearance. But Charlene, she looks unperturbed by the pregnancy and child-rearing. She's still very beautiful. We saw an opportunity for Prokids then."

Assistant creative director Divine Gil added: "She has two adorable children, and also because she's very hands-on in taking care of them, so she's the perfect Prokids mom."

It also helped that the twins were very cooperative and very friendly with the crew during the shoot, according to Gil.

1ST/A24



One more time, 'Nay!

Champion talaga si Nanay.
Hanggang ngayon, panalo.

Sa lakas na bigay ng
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Sa sarap na binabalik-balikan,

Bawat timpla ng MILO, may dagdag
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Kaya, 'Nay, give her MILO
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Asia's Fastest Woman 1982-1986 & Municipal Councilor
with 13-year old daughter, STEPHANIE

The Winning Recipe
1. Dissolve 4 heaping tbsps. of MILO into 1/4 glass of warm water.
2. Add 2 tbsps. of CARNATION Condensada.
3. Add cold water and ice. Stir briskly.

One More Time!

Integrated Midwives Associa
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MESSAGES

My warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Inc. (IMAP) on your Annual Convention and Celebration of Midwifery Week.

Your theme, "Weaving Dreams, Shaping Realities," reflects your commitment to excellence in your profession. As professional midwives, your efforts to upgrade your competencies are vital in our quest to address the health requirements of our growing population.

As you hold your important event, I hope you will be inspired to make your services more accessible to the greater segment of our countrymen. May you intensify your efforts in improving the quality of life of our people.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

MESSAGES

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP) Inc. on the holding of their Annual Convention with the theme, "Weaving Dreams, Shaping Realities."

As you continue your efforts in achieving your aspirations and objectives, may this event bring more harmony and further strengthen the bonds of camaraderie among your members as you plan your program of activities geared towards improving the health and well-being of our people.

I laud IMAP for its dedication and hardwork, being at the forefront of our health care delivery system. I exhort you to persevere in the efforts towards world-class health care competencies and continue to serve deep commitment to professional excellence.

May you remain steadfast and continue to pursue your profession with greater excellence and vigor as you forge stronger ties with the government and other health advocates ensuring access to quality and affordable healthcare services.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD., MSc.
Secretary of Health

MESSAGES

In behalf of the DILG Family, I extend my warmest felicitations to the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Inc. (IMAP) as you hold your Annual Convention coinciding with the Midwifery Week on October 21 - 24, 2003.

This year's theme *"Weaving Dreams, Shaping Realities"* aptly shows your continued commitment to help the government in the realization of each and every individual's right to live a full life.

I know that IMAP is a potent partner of the government in nation building and we are elated by the enthusiasm you have shown in upgrading the level of competence of your members to make them more responsive to the needs of the changing world.

May the exchange of ideas and experiences between and among participants in this convention further spur all of you to work hand in hand to improve the health service delivery, not only for our women and children but for all Filipinos.

Mabuhay and God Bless!

JOSE D. LINA, Jr.
Secretary

MESSAGES

My esteemed greetings to the midwives of the country.

IMAP, Inc. marks another milestone in its continuing service to the midwifery profession this month of October. On this occasion, let us be reminded that hardwork, dedication and unity should be our guiding spirit in keeping the midwifery profession on its rightful place. Let us be focused on our vision and goals as we continue to work with renewed commitment.

As we look back with pride and joy through all the past fruitful years, let us derive inspiration from the thought that we have accomplished some of the dreams that we have weaved together. With the theme of "WEAVING DREAMS; SHAPING REALITIES" let us continue to remain strongly motivated in pursuing our goals to keep the midwifery torch alive.

Once again, I wish IMAP, Inc. delegates, guests and friends all the best as we turn another chapter in the organization's meaningful history. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

ALICE SANZ DE LA GENTE
President, IMAP

Weaving Dreams, Shaping Realities

It was not so long ago when the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Inc. (IMAP) dreamt of professionalizing midwifery. Inspired by the efforts of Dr. Jose Fabella, who founded the first school of midwifery in the country in 1922, IMAP envisioned a baccalaureate degree to better educate and prepare midwives to be at the frontline of health service to many Filipino communities. Thanks to IMAP's passionate efforts, that dream is now a reality.

Prior to the baccalaureate program, midwifery schools offered a 2-year course, which prepared midwives to work in the Philippines alone. The high demand for midwives abroad called for better preparation and improved know-how for them to work outside of the Philippines. It was then the desire of IMAP to equip midwives with the skills and knowledge to qualify them to work in other countries. And through the 3-year midwifery program completed in the IMAP Foundation School of Midwifery in Jaro,Iloilo City, the dream of working abroad has now come true for countless Filipino midwives.

With the realization of the numerous hopes and dreams of the hundreds of midwives, it is only fitting that the theme for this year's midwifery convention is: "Weaving Dreams, Shaping Realities."

"I can still remember those days when midwives were not looked at as real healthcare professionals," recalls IMAP president Alice Sanz de la Gente, "But since the baccalaureate program was launched, people see us in a new light...with greater respect for what we do for the community. This has really warmed my heart because it assures all of us at IMAP that our hard work and sacrifices have paid off."

This change in the public's perception of midwives certainly shows how much IMAP has raised the bar of midwifery by sheer hard work and unwavering faith. IMAP has proven that with better education and perseverance, anything is possible.

Beyond its efforts in improving education, IMAP continues to also make significant inroads in the Philippine healthcare landscape. As more and more professional healthcare providers leave the country to work abroad, most midwives stay with the communities to provide primary healthcare. "Midwives- from the community, for the community," explained Ms. Alice, as she is fondly called.

The baccalaureate program was also designed to ensure that midwives are ready to work in rural areas as community health service providers and managers. With the utmost goal of providing quality and efficient health services for the community members, IMAP banks not only on the commitment and potential of its midwifery students but also on their passion and love for people. In turn, IMAP works towards gaining support and encouraging the appreciation of unique Filipino health related values.

You would think that with all these accomplishments, IMAP would sit back and rest on its laurels. But that's not what IMAP is all about; they are here to continue to dream high for the future of midwifery. The master's program for community health service is now also a reality for many midwives who want to receive post-graduate education. In development is a doctorate program, which is also expected to further raise the standards of midwifery.

Looking back, IMAP has numerous achievements to speak of in its close to 3 decades of existence. But looking ahead, there are still many hurdles to overcome and many challenges to conquer. With the unwavering passion of IMAP and its members, there is no doubt that soon, the new dreams will also become realities.

"Realizing the Dream"

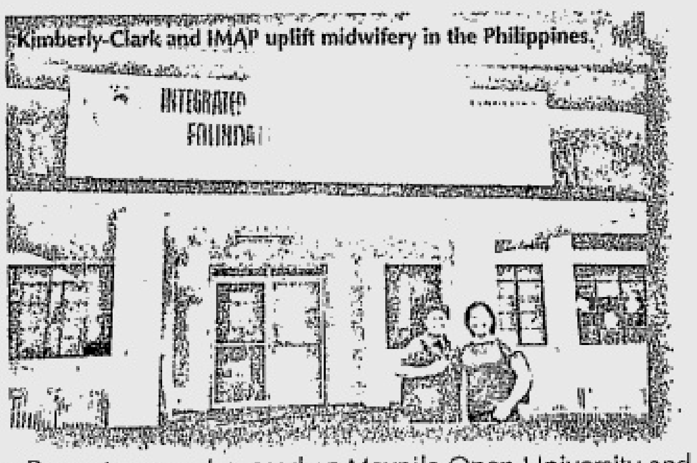
By Alice Sanz de la Gente

When the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP) Foundation School of Midwifery was founded in Jaro, Iloilo City, on May 1998, our goal was not only to provide quality midwifery programs but also to make the program available to poor but deserving students through scholarship grants. This, along with the vision of providing free health services to the indigents and assisting the Department of Health with the delivery of health care in the community was our grand dream.

Four years later, we are overcome with joy at how that dream has become reality for many midwives. On its first year, the IMAP Foundation School of Midwifery had 14 students. By the school's second year of operations, this number tripled to 44 enrollees, including 31 scholars and 13 non-scholars. The third year of operations, Schoolyear 2001-2002, showed an even more explosive growth for us, with a total of 96 students enrolled in the school. It has truly been a pleasure for me to witness the transformation in the midwives and those they have helped through the developments of the school. So many communities have benefited from the increased knowledge and skills the midwives have developed through the midwifery program and we aim to reach even more communities in the future.

Aside from the 3-year baccalaureate degree for midwifery, we have also been offering a Caregiver Course since October 2000. As of this date, there have been nine batches of graduates, with a total of 494 caregiver students. The10th batch of the Caregiver Course began its enrollment last February 2003 and is currently ongoing. This course has helped hundreds of Filipino caregivers find work abroad and with the increasing demand for caregivers overseas, we strive to continue to educate more and more gifted Filipinos so that they too may have the chance to fulfill their dreams abroad.

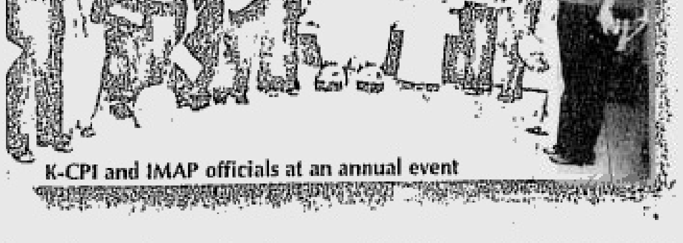
Kimberly-Clark and IMAP uplift midwifery in the Philippines.



Another development, which I myself am taking part in is the Masters in Community Health Service program offered through the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Open University and Distance Learning Program. The program advocates the concept of wellness of individuals, families, and communities and was designed to produce highly competent health manpower to address the country's health needs. The availability of this program is truly a milestone in our journey to professionalism for midwifery and I am confident that this master's degree will produce midwives that will make the Filipino communities they service proud.

The road to professionalizing midwifery has indeed been long, with many sets of hurdles along the way. Looking back, I can only beam with pride and joy at what we have accomplished. Midwifery today is not what it was a few years ago. It is an honorable profession with an integral role in the country's health landscape. As we mark IMAP's 29th year, we celebrate the fact that with hard work and perseverance, our humble dreams are now realities.

Kimberly-Clark and IMAP – Making Dreams Come True



K-CPI and IMAP officials at an annual event

It has always been the dream of IMAP and K-CPI to raise the image of midwives in the Philippines.

It is for this very reason that IMAP and K-CPI joined hands to set-up the IMAP Foundation School of Midwifery. The Foundation took under its wings aspiring Filipino midwives who wanted to make a difference in the delivery of healthcare services in the communities they belonged to, and when the opportunity presented itself, even outside their motherland.

The IMAP Foundation School of Midwifery provided the necessary training for these young Filipino midwives to ensure that they were equipped with the necessary skills and tools to make it as a midwife and healthcare provider, anywhere in the Philippines and in the world.

Analyn Canja is one of the successful scholars that the K-CPI and IMAP partnership produced. Analyn, as she is fondly called, enrolled in the foundation in 1998.

Luck has been good to her as a once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity to work abroad knocked on her door. "My work brought me to Ohio and my task was to take care of my 81-year old Filipino employer," Analyn relates. "I started out as a reliever but it turned out to be a long-term career opportunity for me."

The one-month stint for Analyn turned into a longer relationship. Her happy employer asked her to stay even with the return of the midwife she was supposed to replace temporarily. While she has returned to the country, Analyn has recently been asked by her previous employer to fly back and is already scheduled to leave on April 2004.

"I'm the second in a brood of ten and the breadwinner of the family. I'm proud to say that with the help and knowledge I gained from the IMAP Foundation School of Midwifery and through the support of K-CPI, I was able to work and send my siblings to school," Analyn shares.

"It is stories like these that keep us going at K-CPI. It is heartwarming to be able to share the gift of caring to society through the scholars that we have helped along the way. I can't think of a greater gift than giving someone the gift of education and a chance to make his life and that of his family's better," enthuses Digna Santos, Kimberly-Clark Philippines' Senior Business Unit Director, Infant Care.

"And if that's not enough, as the first line of healthcare providers, our midwife-scholars are able to give medical assistance and support to those who are in need," adds Digna.

Kimberly-Clark has always believed in the capability of the Filipino women to nurture and care for others. Its support for IMAP also stems forth from the company's vision and is an embodiment of their company slogan, "Kimberly-Clark Cares."

"Proper education is a definite key to success," Santos shares. "We are glad that this partnership resulted in many happy lives not only of the midwives but also in the families that they touch through their work," she concludes.

With strong partnerships like that of IMAP and Kimberly-Clark, anything is possible.

Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. Is a proud partner of the 29th IMAP Convention

BUSINESS

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Gov't exceeds September deficit target

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said it breached its budget deficit target for the second straight month in September as it as it loosened up on spending to take advantage of the improved revenue collections in recent months.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the shortfall hit P29.1 billion in September, far above the goal for the month of P22 billion. It was the highest monthly deficit since March.

The September figure brought the total deficit to P142.7 billion for the first nine months of 2003, still within the target of P149.5 billion for the period.

"We continued in September to take full advantage of the headroom created by the stronger-than-expected revenues posted earlier this year. I want to be clear that the government's objective is to meet its fiscal performance target for the year and not to outperform it. Economic growth is something we cannot compromise with holding on too tight a budget," he explained.

The government has been in budget deficits for nine of the past 13 years, largely due to a weak tax base from widespread evasion, corruption and an inefficient collection system.

The Macapagal administration—which shocked investors last year by blasting through its deficit targets three times—has been on a drive to improve tax and duties collection to boost revenues.

Revenues for the nine-month period stood at P456.6 billion, 11.5 percent higher than a year ago and ahead of the target for the period by 6 percent.

Expenditures, on the other hand, expanded by 4 percent to P599.3 billion from a year ago and exceeded the nine-month ceiling by 3.3 percent.

The actual nine-month deficit level, however, was much lower than the P146.5 billion estimate earlier reported. For the full year, the government aims to keep the deficit within the P202 billion ceiling.

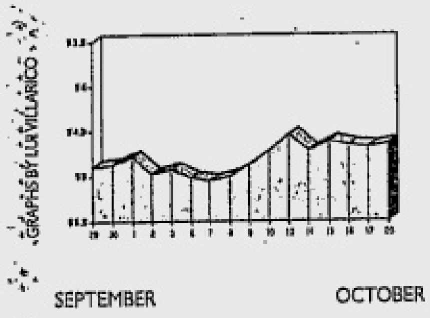
Camacho told reporters the government was still "very much on track" versus the full-year target, noting that they would keep a tighter rein on spending for the remainder of the year. At the very least, he said the increased public spending has helped perk up the economy for the third quarter.

"But we'll make sure we don't overdo it. Starting the month of October, we will be more restrained on our expenditures. What we've done in the third quarter won't happen again," Camacho said.

Expenditures in September swelled by 12.7 percent from a year ago to P77.4 billion, exceeding the ceiling for the period by 11.3 percent.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.64 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 20, 2003

¥ 109.40 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 20, 2003

GOLD: $371.10-371.60

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 20, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks edge up

STOCKS ended slightly higher yesterday, aided by gains in major telecom firms, but a hoped-for rally in the wake of US President George W. Bush's visit on Saturday failed to materialize, traders said.

"This was played up in the papers but there was no mention of any financial package that some had hoped for," said Rommel Macapagal, chairman of Westlink Global Securities.

The main index closed up 1.53 points, or 0.11 percent, at 1,368.86 points. Turnover rose sharply to P1.13 billion from P832.8 million last Friday, much of it driven by cross trades in Globe Telecom in the wake of last week's announcement that shareholder Deutsche Telekom AG was selling its 24.8-percent stake in the mobile phone operator.

September's budget deficit of P29.1 billion, the biggest monthly fiscal shortfall since March this year, also put a dampener on investor sentiment, although the number had been flagged in advance by government officials.

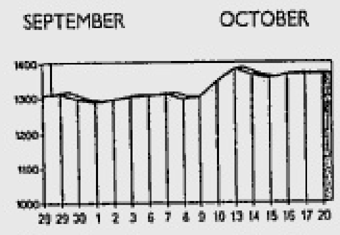
"They are still worried about this. If it worsens it could overshadow any positive earnings news," Macapagal said.

With many players reluctant to take fresh positions ahead of third-quarter corporate results due out from late October, the market was seen drifting in the meantime.

"There's really no market-moving news right now. We see resistance at around 1,380 points, with support at 1,350 for now," Macapagal said.

Reuters

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Imports fell 8.5% in August to $3.1B

THE COUNTRY'S imports fell by 8.5 percent in August to $3.1 billion from a year ago, sharply reversing the 1.3-percent rise in July, as the failed military uprising the month before and the subsequent peso depreciation dampened manufacturers' interest to spend.

As the country's top exports like semiconductor use a lot of imported raw materials, a slowdown in import spending is seen as an indication of weakening export performance.

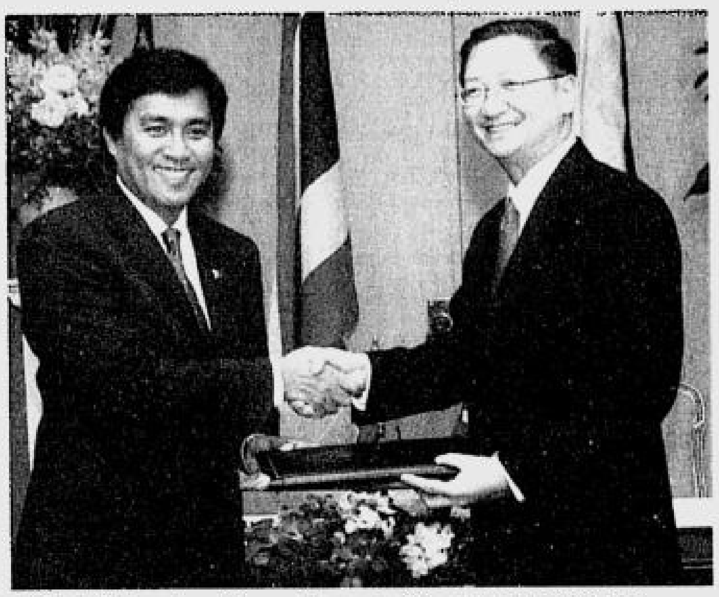
The Philippines recorded a trade deficit of $138 million in August, lower than the deficit of $361 million in the same month of 2002, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

Earlier this month, it said exports fell 2.2 percent to $2.97 billion in August from $3.03 billion a year earlier as electronic shipments to major markets such as the United States continued to dwindle.

Jose Vistan, an economic analyst at AB Capital, said the August imports number was lower than his forecast of $3.4 billion. But he noted that the peso had weakened significantly after the failed uprising by rogue troops on July 27.

"Demand for imports is a function of cost, so the peso depreciation made it more expensive," he said. "It was a knee-jerk reaction to the mutiny. Manufacturers slowed down in their orders."

IMPORTS/B2



ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. (L) and Energy Minister Prommin Letsuridej of Thailand seal with a handshake the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Philippines and Thailand on cooperation in oil and gas activities. The MOU was signed at the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand.

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MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

AS I get older, I find it harder to keep producing all these dreadful puns, jokes and limericks especially as I have been doing this for nearly five years; two years with the INQUIRER and before that three years with another local newspaper. You really have to be on your mettle but I have been feeling tired, so I decided to have a check-up. Guess what they found? The MRI scan showed that I was suffering from mettle fatigue. This usually happens to airplanes but I am a plane sort of guy. Some days, I feel that my engine will not start and it takes a lot of enginuity to get going. If the INQUIRER does not give me an award for humor this year, I am going to defect to Jay Leno. He pays $100 a joke.

At least, the Queen of England reads my column and she offered me a Knighthood, but I told her that Catholics are not allowed to wear them, lest they suffer condomnation. So she is putting my face on the next set of stamps. That pleases me because imitation is the sincerest form of philately.

My boss has an aquarium at the reception desk, but while he was away, someone forgot to feed the fish and they died. I put a large notice on the tank, "Where ISDA fish?" I just want to show you that I am bifocal.

Here is good news for parents with pimply teenagers. On Channel 34, there is a program called ACNE hour. Hope you spotted that one.

At present, childless couples have to go to a fertility clinic and undergo a traumatic experience. The man donates his sperm, several ova are removed from the woman, and the doctor injects the sperm into the ovum, one at a time, with a very fine needle. The procedure is unpleasant for the woman, the failure rate is enormous and the cost is prohibitive. I have patented a new method, which will change all that. The sperm are placed in an aerosol and propelled into the womb. It is painless and 90-percent successful. I will simply call the procedure "Heir Spray."

Thieves broke into Camp Crame and stole all the toilets. The military hasn't been able to solve the mystery, as the soldiers have nothing to go on.

What do you give a man who has everything? Penicillin.

When the 1st grade children line up to go to the toilet, the teacher yells out, "Watch your queues and pee."

My wife doesn't like being married to a 73-year old. She feels that old age is creeping up on her.

I read in another newspaper that for dessert, President Bush had chocolate mouse. This has not yet been ratified.

* * *

Metrobank has just raised $70 million through a fungible bond. I pride myself on my voluminous vocabulary and insatiable desire to imbibe etymology, so I was mortified to discover a word I did not know. I rushed to my huge dictionary and thesaurus, which I can hardly lift, but it was not there. The bank either made it up or it is a type of fungus. There is not mushroom for this type of bond and it might be downgraded to shitake.

The government last Friday raised P750 million bonds due 2014 plus $300 million due 2025. These are edible bonds printed on rice paper. If they can't pay them off, at least you can eat them. Actually, the Treasury has done a great job raising this money on yields of less than 10 percent because it will be far more difficult as the election approaches.

ABS-CBN is issuing $150 million worth of bonds and has forecast that profits for 2003 will exceed P1 billion as advertising remains strong despite increased rates. Moody's has rated the bonds as F4.

As expected, Deutsche Telekom has sold its 24.8-percent stake in Globe at P680 a share. SingTel and Ayala Corp. bought as much as they could and Globe bought a 7.9-percent stake for P12 billion, half of its cash reserves. This shows confidence in the company and takes pressure off AC, which rose 10 centavos. It also benefits stockholders, as this will increase earnings by 8 percent. The 3rd quarter results should be far better than the 2nd quarter when they deactivated about 220,000 accounts. It might also help to increase liquidity, normally a factor.

I found myself in a dilemma last Monday because the degree of risk on the Phisix had reached 100. I told all subscribers to SELL on the first sign of weakness and next morning, at 9:45 a.m., I sent out an ALERT saying SELL NOW. The index was only down 1 point at that time, but it closed 19 points lower, and fell another 9 points the following day. I could not tell readers because they would have received the signal at the same time as subscribers and I would have had a mutiny on my hands. A subscriber has emigrated to Canada so I can accept one but you should have a portfolio worth P500,000 in shares and cash. The newsletter is sophisticated and is unsuitable for beginners. You should be conversant with the 10 Commandments, which I wrote on April 21 and 28. If you missed them, you can get them from the archives of inq7.net by looking under the business section for Ron Nathan.

The dividend season starts next week so there is nothing to comment on. There has been a huge turnover in TEL, P730, with PEPI a persistently large seller and SB Equities and Asiasec easily absorbing all the stock. I expect 3rd quarter profits to be at least P3.2 billion, and slightly more in the 4th quarter, which includes Christmas. The chair has already forecast P9 billion to P10 billion, after write-offs, and that is 3 times last year's profits. However, the share price has more than tripled since I recommended it in the Inquirer at P226, so to a large degree, this has been factored into the price. Once the results have been announced, assuming they are on target or better, interest tends to wane and turnover declines. The same applies to GLOBE, which I recommended at P410 and is now P755. The current level of activity is unlikely to be sustained after the first week in November.

In the US, the dividend season is in full swing. Intel earned 25 cents a share in the 3rd quarter, compared with 11 cents a year ago. As this was 2 cents better than expected, the shares initially rose 4 percent. IBM was slightly disappointing and eBay definitely below analysts' expectations. With about 25 percent of results out to date, 63 percent have beaten estimates, 30 percent are on target and only 7 percent have failed to meet expectations. Profits are 20 percent higher than a year ago.

Investors are happy but are expecting profits to accelerate in the 4th quarter and into next year. Intel said that guidance for the 4th quarter was positive but warned that this did not mean that it would necessarily continue throughout 2004. Herein lies the danger because tech stocks are trading on high price/earnings ratios, and are therefore vulnerable, if profits fail to meet high expectations. GDP is currently 5 percent and analysts expect 6-1/2 percent to 7 percent next year, but some of the consumer spending in the 3rd quarter was the result of substantial tax rebates. It is uncertain whether it will be sustained next quarter.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

DISCLOSURES

SUPERIOR FSC Foods Corp. and FSC Foods Corp. will merge with Jollibee Foods Corp. Also, for the period of Oct. 1 to 17, 14,684 shares were exercised and fully paid for under the company's stock option plan bringing total shares under this plan to over 9.7 million.

***

SKY Vision Corp., Central CATV and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc. signed a memorandum of agreement with key creditors for the restructuring of the three company's debt obligations.

***

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 5,000 of its own shares at P1.30 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 20, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.856237692	1.000000	54.633000
Japan	Yen	0.007831	0.009146	0.499700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437623	1.679000	91.728800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110571	0.129136	7.055100
Switzerland	Franc	0.644806	0.753069	41.142400
Canada	Dollar	0.650983	0.760283	41.536500
Singapore	Dollar	0.492799	0.575540	31.443500
Australia	Dollar	0.593045	0.692617	37.839700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.271308	2.652661	144.922800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.228324	0.266660	14.568400
Brunei	Dollar	0.491385	0.573888	31.353200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000119	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021454	0.025056	1.368900
UAE	Dirham	0.233123	0.272264	14.874600
Euro	Euro	1	1.167900	63.805900
Argentina	Peso	0.300962	0.351494	19.203200
Brazil	REAL	0.299699	0.350018	19.122500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134565	0.157159	8.586100
India	Rupee	0.018906	0.022080	1.206300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225356	0.263193	14.379000
Mexico	New Peso	0.076334	0.089150	4.870500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510152	0.595806	32.550700
Norway	Kroner	0.120987	0.141301	7.719700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.01493	0.017437	0.952600
South Africa	Rand	0.119294	0.139324	7.611700
Korea	Won	0.000729	0.000851	0.046500
Sweden	Kroner	0.110759	0.129356	7.067100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025295	0.029542	1.614000

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Oct. 20, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	10,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	44.5	44.5	51,600
China Banking Corp.	665	665	665	665	2,990
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36.5	36	36.5	307,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.78	310,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	29	28	28	136,500
Philippine National Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	49,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13	13	15,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	67,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1580	1575	1580	6,720
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1325	1325	1325	1325	340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	7,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	2,210,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	755	760	750	755	894,290
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	3,400,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.85	0.87	0.83	0.87	10,120,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	745	710	730	377,910
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	43,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.5	113,900
Manila Electric Co. B	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.75	490,800
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.02	2.06	722,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.08	7,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.85	334,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.97	0.87	0.97	1,290,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	100,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	13,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	803,000
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56.5	19,500
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62	62	62	355,200
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	17,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Alok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	190,000
Alok-Big Wedge.Inc. B	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.95	4.95	1,458,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	143,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.028	0.029	9,900,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	14,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	8,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	4,360,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.125	450,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.29	460,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	372,400
Ionics Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.7	1.7	947,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	94,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.04	5,653,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	8,750,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,160,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	560,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	1,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1,550,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	40,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	450,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	120,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	760,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.6	1,099,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	670,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.215	0.2	0.215	4,700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	3,320,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	10,138,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	140,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	1,919,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	540,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.009	110,000,000
Manila Mining Corp B	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	98,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.34	19,090,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	16,950,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.0034	0.003	0.0034	298,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0038	0.0032	0.0036	70,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	80,000

Imports fell 8.5% . . .

From page B1

Sluggish demand in the Philippines' top export markets has weighed on its trade performance and economic growth this year, raising concern about the impact of a widening trade deficit on the current account.

From January to August this year, the bill for foreign-made merchandise increased by 6.1 percent to $24.91 billion. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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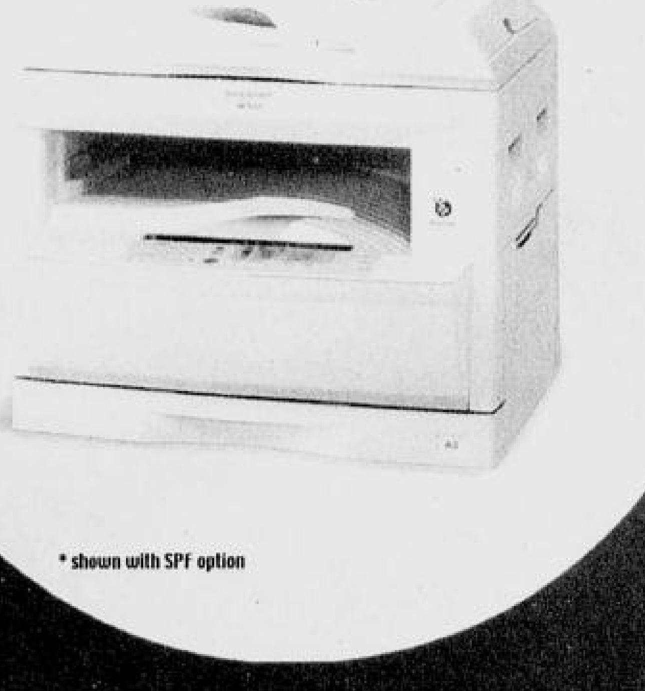

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Opic extends $1B in guarantee to RP borrowers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE OVERSEAS Private Investment Corp. (Opic), a development agency of the US government, has offered Philippine borrowers a fresh credit guarantee facility worth more than $1 billion, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

In a press briefing, Camacho said the reopening of a credit facility by Opic, similar to what was earlier done for state-owned National Power Corp., was the "biggest development" communicated to the government during the recent state visit to the country by US President George W. Bush.

He said the facility would benefit a number of state-owned agencies, particularly the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (Philexim), the government's official export credit agency, as well as corporate borrowers.

Philexim, which is expected to account for $350 million of the total amount of guarantees offered by Opic, will use the US agency's guarantee to back up its own guarantee facility for trade credits and other private borrowings.

Camacho noted that the earlier transaction for Napocor was the first time that the Opic had embarked on such a guarantee program for the Philippines.

Opic gave a guarantee cover for Napocor's 15-year bonds worth $250 million issued last September. Prior to this, the agency had difficulties tapping the global capital market due to poor investor appetite.

With the joint guarantee from Opic and the national government, Napocor was able to reduce its borrowing cost by 84 basis points or lower than the secondary yields for comparable sovereign borrowings of the Philippine Republic.

Opic is expected to send a representative to Manila later this month to conduct due diligence on Philexim and two other firms that will get the guarantee.

The Opic's offer to back up Philippine debts was a welcome surprise, Camacho said, as the government was not expecting the agency to approve new programs so soon.

"We never expected it to figure prominently (during the Bush visit). We've been talking about it but it was still a work in progress. There were still legal issues that need to be addressed. There are assets that we need to make available," Camacho said.

"We're getting what would help the Philippines," he stressed.

Aside from boosting Philexim's trade financing capabilities, the Finance chief said the country could use the Opic guarantee facility for other projects related to housing financing and other GOCC requirements.

Opic, which was established in 1971, helps US businesses invest overseas. It is mandated to foster economic development in new and emerging markets, complement the private sector in managing the risks associated with foreign direct investment, and support US foreign policy.

By expanding economic development in host countries, Opic-supported projects seek to encourage political stability, free market reforms and US best practices. This institution charges market-based fees for its products and thus operates on a self-sustaining basis at no net cost to American taxpayers.

8 firms earmark P2.4B for rural electrification

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EIGHT power companies have committed to spend P2.38 billion over the next three years to support the government's rural electrification program, the Department of Energy said.

The DOE said these companies were PNOC Energy Development Corp., California Energy, Korea Power Corp. (Kepco), Mirant Philippines, Power One Corp., San Roque Power Corp., State Power and Luzon Hydro.

The eight companies' commitment covered electrification projects that would benefit 1,738 barangays and 18 *sitios* between 2004 and 2006.

Estimates show that providing electricity to a barangay costs between P1 million and P1.3-million.

PNOC-EDC committed to energize 827 villages in Cotabato, Leyte, Samar, Negros Island, Albay and Sorsogon. The country's largest producer of energy has so far provided power to 506 barangays in nine provinces.

CalEnegy pledged to energize 101 barangays in Nueva Vizcaya, Aurora and Cagayan. while Power One is sponsoring work in 50 barangays in Catanduanes.

Mirant said it would complete the electrification of 500 barangays under its Project Beacon while Kepco promised to bring electricity to 200 barangays in the Visayas.

State Power's project covers 50 barangays; San Roque covers eight barangays and 18 *sitios*, while Luzon Hydro Corp. adopted two barangays.

The government aims to complete the electrification of all barangays in the country by 2006 under the expanded rural electrification program.

As of end-August, 4,618 out of 41,945 barangays nationwide still have no electricity.

Ford to start exporting CKDs next year

By Michelle V. Remo

FORD Motor Co. Philippines is set to undertake another export initiative, this time involving completely knocked down units (CKDs).

Ford vice president David Macasadia said the company wanted to diversify its export revenue source through the marketing of CKDs in foreign markets after engaging in the export of completely built-up units (CBUs).

Ford plans to begin its CKD export program next year, and is expected to be the first auto manufacturer in the country to export CKDs. At present, Ford is the only local car company that exports CBUs.

Ford is poised to export CKDs although the government has not committed on granting the automotive industry's request for CKD export incentives.

"We initially plan to export to Asean countries, particularly Malaysia and Thailand," said Macasadia in a recent briefing with reporters.

Macasadia said Ford would be conducting its new business undertaking under the firm's "kitting operation," in which it would gather various auto parts in a kit for export. He added that Ford would initially export 20 lots per year, whereby one lot is equivalent to 20 CKD kits.

Ford's export initiative forms part of its efforts to make the Philippines its export hub and the second biggest car exporter in the Asean region. The company earlier said it planned to boost car exports to at least 100,000 units of CBUs per year in the next five years from this year's target of 14,000 units.

Ford Motor Co. president William Ford said in a recent visit to Manila that the American car firm was infusing $50 million in additional investments in the country for the enhancement of its manufacturing facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Palace OK of LRT fare structure change sought

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LIGHT Rail Transit Authority is awaiting President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval of the rationalization of LRT's fare structure to match the system that Edsa Metro Rail Transit 3 is using.

LRTA Administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr. said in an interview that LRT was moving toward the distance-related fare system similar to the MRT-3's fare structure.

"We're collating data now on how best to implement the new fare structure. We should be able to institute a distance-related fare collection system soon. We're just waiting for the approval of the LRT's fare rationalization program," he told the INQUIRER.

LRT has been using a single fare system for most of its 18 stations since it started operations in 1984. Under the current fare structure, all passengers pay P12 regardless of their destination.

Cruz said the LRTA was looking at a maximum fare of P15 and a minimum of P9, similar to the MRT-3.

Cruz said a shift to distance-related fare system was in preparation for the eventual linking of the LRT and MRT-3 fare cards.

He said there was a plan to establish a system that would allow passengers of the LRT lines 1 and 2 and the MRT-3 to use just one card for both railway lines.

"The integrated fare collection system will link the systems of the MRT-3, LRT 1 and LRT 2. This is up for bidding now and it will be at no cost to the government," he said.

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Court grants GSMI petition

THE MANDALUYONG Regional Trial has issued a preliminary injunction barring Tanduay Distillers Inc. (TDI) from manufacturing, selling or advertising its Ginebra Kapitan gin while the P100-million suit filed against it by Ginebra San Miguel Inc. (GSMI) was being tried. The hearings of the case are expected to move on to trial proper soon.

In its ruling, the court said it recognized the use by GSMI of the word "Ginebra" as "a dominant feature in the trademark or trade name which was registered as far back as 1834."

"Because of its long and exclusive use of the said mark, plaintiff (GSMI) has distinguished and identified itself with the word 'Ginebra,'" the court said.

Mandaluyong RTC judge Edwin Sorongon said TDI's use of "Ginebra" as part of the branding feature of Kapitan gin "tends to show defendant's (TDI) intention to ride on the popularity and the established goodwill of plaintiff's (GSMI) 'Ginebra San Miguel.'"

The court also noted that while the respective trademarks of the TDI and GSMI products were not identical, there was "a strong indication that confusion is probably or likely to occur since one would inevitably lead to conclude that both products are affiliated to the plaintiff (GSMI) because of the distinctive mark 'Ginebra.'"

"It is the mark which draws the attention of the buyer and leads him to conclude that the goods originated from the same manufacturer," he added.

Ejap Journalism Awards tonight

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura will be the keynote speaker during the 12th Ejap-Globe Telecom Business Journalism Awards tonight 7 p.m. at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

This year's panel of judges is composed of Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia R. Bautista; former Agriculture Secretary Salvador H. Escudero III, who is also president of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE); Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation (PhilExport) and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI); Epitacio R. Marquez, president and chief executive officer of Capitol Wireless Inc. (Capwire Telecommunications) and the Philippine Chamber of Telecommunication Operators; and Thomas Crouch, Philippine country director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

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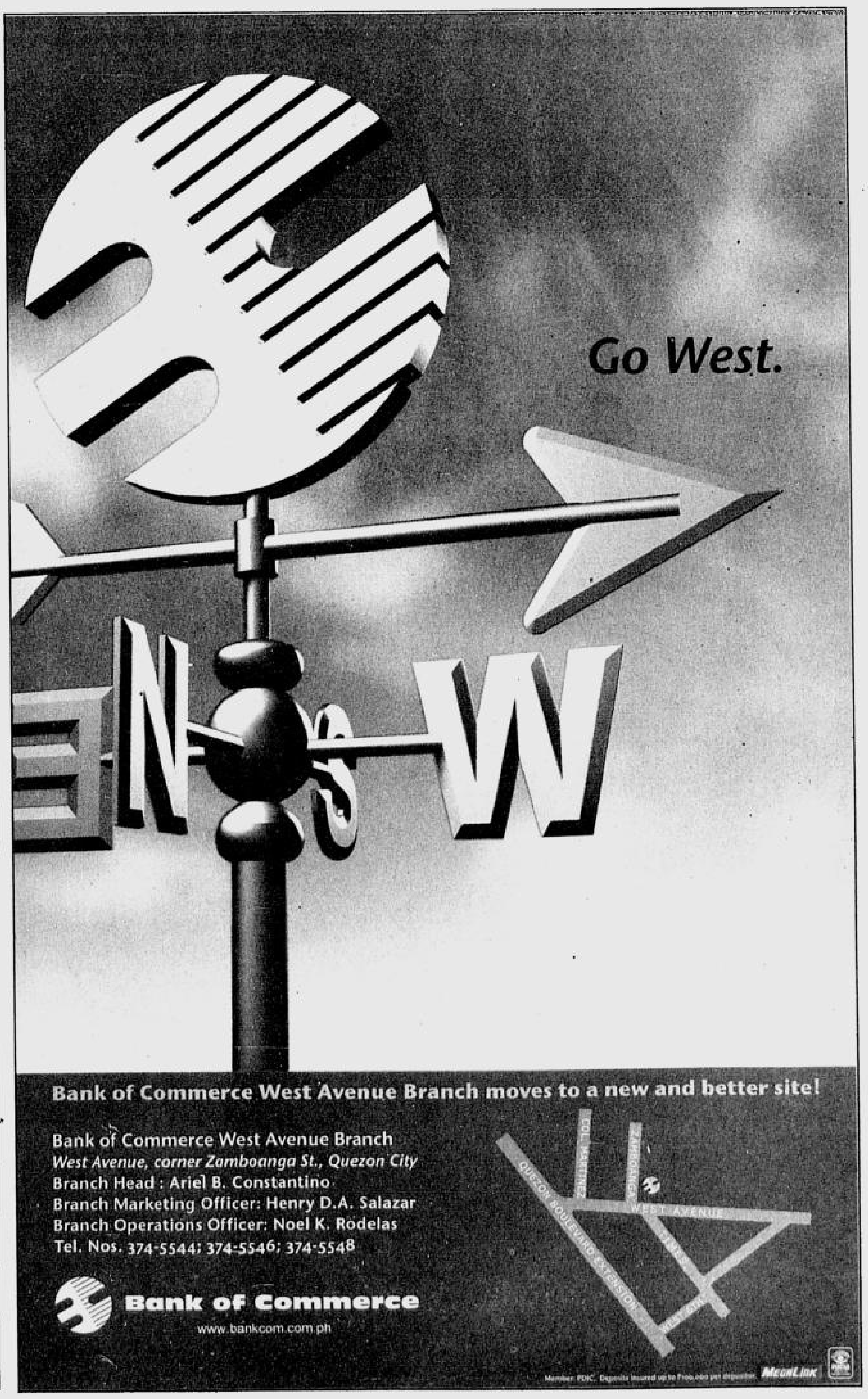
Punongbayan & Araullo, the Grant Thornton (GT) member firm in the Philippines, is launching its Family Business Consulting Group (FBCG) unit on October 23, 2003, 6:00 pm at the Shangri-La Makati Hotel. Guest speaker for the cocktail event is GT's international family business consultant, Clayton Hebbard. Hebbard is a leading family business consultant with experience in succession planning, drafting family creeds, remuneration planning and conflict resolution, among others, and is a practicing family business consultant in Thailand and Hong Kong. Hebbard shall be presenting a brief overview of GT's PRIMA methodologies to executives and owners of family- managed businesses as well as the latest results of GT's global survey on family businesses.

PRIMA (People and Relationship Issues in Management) is a globally tested methodology, developed in-house by GT professionals, that helps find solutions tailored to the owner-manager's needs by identifying the overlaps between family, ownership and management goals. PRIMA employs the 12-factor approach which provides a checklist on the issues facing a business where there are relationship problems or where the owner-managers believe there are potential management, control or succession issues. This 12-factor approach includes succession planning, family member and non-member remuneration planning, pre-retirement structures and strategies and estate planning, among others.

To attend this family business forum, please contact Rowena Ramos at 886-5511 or visit the P&A web site, *http://www.punongbayan-araullo.com.*

ADVT.



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25th Catholic Mass Media Awards

MESSAGES

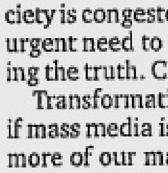
SERVICE to the truth is the main mission of mass media. Moreover, Jesus Christ Himself is the truth. To pursue the truth therefore is ultimately to follow the way of Jesus Christ - the way of righteousness, justice, love and peace.

The Catholic Mass Media Awards was instituted to those whose words enable people to recall and rediscover the original goodness of creation. The awardees are those who promote and uphold the genuine ways of humanity. At a time that society is congested with so many false values and ideals, there is an urgent need to recognize mass media practitioners who are serving the truth. CMMA is one humble attempt to achieve this goal.

Transformation and conversion in society will be possible only if mass media is directed to the truth, to God. May CMMA inspire more of our mass media practitioners to produce works that instill communion and authentic human development.

Congratulations to the winners.

+Jaime Card. Sin
JAIME CARDINAL SIN
Archbishop of Manila



MY WARMEST congratulations to this year's recipients of The Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA).

The Catholic Mass Media Awards is a fitting tribute to our countrymen who have promoted Christian values in an outstanding way in radio, press, television, advertising, film, Internet, publishing and music. More importantly, these awards reflect the affirmation that we give to responsible mass media and its strong influence in transmitting and reflecting sound values among our people.

I also congratulate the men and women of the Catholic Mass Media Awards and the Archdiocese of Manila as you celebrate the 25th year of the CMMA and hold the 2003 Awards Night. May you continue this worthy undertaking that gives due recognition to those who are serving God and truth through their practice.

Mabuhay.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

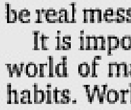
"25 Years of Philippine Media through the eyes of Catholic Mass Media Awards"

SINCE 1978, the Archdiocese of Manila, through the initiative and inspiring leadership of His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin, has recognized media products and personalities that promote total human development. With the advances of information technology, the abilities of our people for moral discernment must be raised for values-filled media production. The Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) has done this and continues to fulfill its ideals.

Your theme for this year's CMMA concretizes the Holy Father's message on the occasion of the 37th World Day of Communications: "The Communications Media at the Service of Authentic Peace in the Light of Pacem in Terris." The theme is timely and urgent. The world and the media still have much to learn from the message of Blessed Pope John XXII on "peace on earth".

As I thank His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin for uplifting the Philippine media, I pray that the organizers of the CMMA will continue the good work the Lord has begun in our midst.

ORLANDO B. QUEVEDO, OMI D.D.
Archbishop of Cotabato
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines



WITH sentiments of joy and solidarity, I greet the organizers, sponsors and awardees of the 2003 CMMA Awards Night to be held at the Irwin Lee Theater, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, on the 21st of October 2003.

If the essence of Christian joy in its proper sense is found at a more directly spiritual level, nevertheless it also includes the healthy enjoyment that is good for the mind and body. And your unique work indirectly or directly involves productions that are meant to offer an opportunity for health relaxation and amusement. Thus society is grateful to you who present intelligent and relaxing broadcasting, reports, shows and programmes which are entertaining without being alienating, humorous but not vulgar and aimed to inform not manipulate. Spreading authentic joy can be a genuine form of social charity.

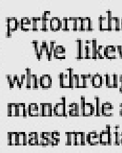
You work with images, gestures and sounds - in other words you work with the exterior. For this very reason you must be men and women with a strong interiority and be capable of recollection. If you have keen awareness of authentic aesthetic and moral values, then in the most varied of means and languages, you will be real messengers of joy, of that joy which Christ alone gives.

It is impossible to think of the new evangelization without the world of mass media and its importance in forming minds and habits. Works that are not explicitly religious can still be capable of speaking to people's hearts and minds, leading them to wonder, to question and to reflect. So the Church counts on you to instill in cinema, TV, radio, theater, newspaper and every form of mass media the Gospel 'leaven' which enables every human reality to develop its positive potential to the maximum.

As you portray the true, the good and the beautiful, may your professional work bring not only personal satisfaction, public acclamation and pecuniary reward but offer more helpful direction and uplifting influence on society. As Catholic communicators its is your duty, privilege and challenge to bear witness to Christ in and through the mass media.

In this Year of the Rosary, may the loving intercession of Mary Most Holy, obtain God's abundant blessings for all those who honor and proclaim the Gospel in the vast world of social communications. Congratulations!

ARCHBISHOP ANTONIO FRANCO, Apostolic Nuncio



THE CATHOLIC Church appreciates achievements of media practitioners through citations like the Catholic Mass Media Awards. We laud how people behind advertisements, cinema, Internet, television radio and music share in the work of information, education and formation of the people as they perform their profession.

We likewise congratulate the Catholic Mass Media Awards, who through these 25 years continue to recognize the truly commendable achievements of our brothers and sisters in the field of mass media as they promote Christian values.

The challenge continues. Through "25 Years of Philippine Media through the eyes of CMMA" is a feat in itself, we pray that you continue to inspire more media practitioners to strive and come up with products true to the mission of Evangelization of our Church.

God bless.

+GAUDENCIO B. ROSALES, D.D.
Archbishop-Elect, Archdiocese of Manila

CMMA honors media with conscience

By Don Zandro G. Rapadas and Catherine Mijares-Chua

THE CATHOLIC Mass Media Awards (CMMA) is a pioneer in the business of recognizing exemplary works in Philippine media. Established in 1978 by the Archdiocese of Manila, it is His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin's way of honoring achievements in the various fields of social communication.

Through these awards, Cardinal Sin pays tribute to "media's trade, their industry and their service to the people."

The CMMA trophy given out to past awardees has brought with it an advocacy. The CMMA honors media productions that exemplify both technical excellence and the portrayal of human values. By this, it aims to further the potential of mass media in promoting genuine Christian values, which include love for God, life and truth, respect for the environment, and the promotion of positive Filipino values.

What does it mean to receive a CMMA, especially at this time when the media has taken on several roles in our society?

From news reporting and entertainment, the local media has evolved into one of the most powerful institutions in the Philippines, taking part in the toppling of corrupt governments, influencing election outcomes, exposing malfeasance in public offices, and championing the rights of the disadvantaged and downtrodden.

But the media has many faces. While it has relentlessly pursued investigations of wrongdoing, it has also shirked from confronting misbehavior within its ranks. Surveys indicate corruption in media. Pornography is rampant not only in print but also in cinema. Sensationalism is invoked for profit to the detriment of truth and justice.

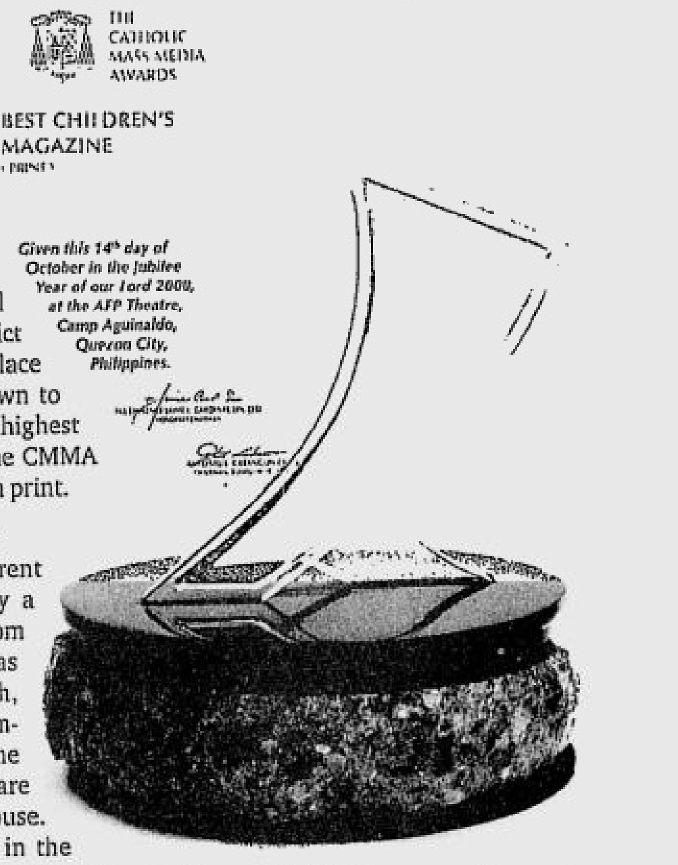
What then, is the CMMA challenge?

Exacting yet beneficial

Cardinal Sin sees the awards as beneficial to both the producers and consumers of mass media. "The CMMA is intended for the protection and benefit not only of the faithful and of each man of good will, but also of all those who are involved in mass media. It aims to explore in a truthful manner the social, cultural, as well as the moral and pastoral concerns and realities arising from the influence of mass media."

Cheche Lazaro of The Probe Team, took the award as a challenge to be more responsible in her craft. "We had to live up to it. I guess we had to be worthy of the award. We don't want people to say that we don't deserve the award. I guess the bottom line for any award is you want to deserve it. We want people to realize that it wasn't given like a mistake."

Likewise, Ruel de Vera, associate editor of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, felt that the CMMA brought with it a high level of accountability. "I am very strict now with my work, there's no place for mediocrity. When I settle down to write a piece, it has to be of the highest quality," he said. De Vera won the CMMA in 2000 for Best Special Feature in print.


THE CATHOLIC MASS MEDIA AWARDS
BEST CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE
(PRINT)
Given this 14th day of October in the Jubilee Year of our Lord 2000, at the AFP Theatre, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines.

Tradition of excellence

"What makes the CMMA different was that it was given to us by a group that was independent from media. And then of course, it was given by the Catholic Church, which has a different set of parameters. Not (actually) different-the same but unique because there are certain values that they espouse. They want excellence not only in the craft but also in the kind of message that you are sending out," said Lazaro, whose Probe Team was elevated to the CMMA Hall of Fame in 2000.

Likewise, De Vera finds it a distinct honor to even get nominated for a CMMA. "I think it is the most universally-accepted award. It has a lot of clout, given by a body that is very strict when it comes to standards, especially now when there is a struggle to find good stories or materials that speaks of a positive message. The CMMA has maintained its prestige over the years," he said.

Media with conscience

In this third millennium, we ask ourselves: Is there really good news about how the news is being produced and consumed in our part of the world?

By news, we mean as much the latest events as the manner of reporting such events in all branches of media. In television, as well as in radio, it is the newscast as well as the talk show, and even the soap opera. In the newspapers, it is the front page as well as the opinion and entertainment pages. How does the news affect us? And of equal importance, how does the manner of reporting the news affect our lives?

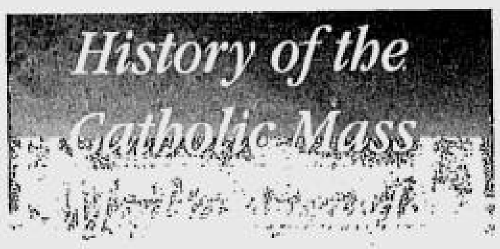
Philippine media, with the freedom they enjoy after the EDSA Revolution of 1996, has never been so aggressive in using them.

> The CMMA trophy given out to past awardees has brought with it an advocacy

But there is much more to be desired with that newfound freedom. As in most of the world, few institutions are as powerful as the media is. We have seen how it can help build nations, mold the character of a people, and shape their dreams and imagination.

Because of its multi-faceted roles, media has been called various names. At its most manipulative, it has been called Brainwashing and Propaganda. At its most non-committal, it has been called only Entertainment. But at its most exacting but beneficial, it has only one name: Conscience.

The CMMA will continue to honor valiant and edifying media productions not just for those who are faithful to the noble objectives of their media profession, but to challenge the entire world of social communications to transmit only the message of truth - that which can only be found in Jesus Christ, our first and model Communicator.


History of the Catholic Mass

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin organized the Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) in 1978, with the observance of the International Social Communications Day by the Universal Church to stress the importance of mass media and to instill a sense of responsibility among communicators. It is the means by which the Archdiocese of Manila pays tribute to outstanding productions in radio, print, advertising, television, music and film.

Since its inception, a jury chosen by the awards organizers and confirmed by Cardinal Sin on the basis of competence, impartiality and integrity has chosen the awardees. Most of its members are active media practitioners, but later on included academicians, civic leaders and members of the clergy and religious.

In 1992, the CMMA focused on media productions that do not only portray human values but also exemplify technical excellence. And since the Awards recognize the media as a tool for total human development, a CMMA winner need not be a Catholic or Christian.

After a hiatus in 1998 and 1999, the CMMA was reborn in the Great Jubilee Year 2000, with a redefined vision, mission and Rock trophy. It ceased to be just another award-giving body when it furthered its advocacy for a responsible and values-filled media with the launch of the First Student CMMA and CMMA Media Fair, respectively, in 2001. These advocacy programs showcase the ingenuity and media potentials of the various sectors of our society, which are not often harnessed, particularly the budding and minor players in the industry.

With the revolution in communication, the CMMA included in 2001 the Internet category, thereby affirming that this institution is committed to respond to the challenges of the changing face of media through the years.

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Catholic Mass Media Awards
HALL OF FAME

CONCERT AT THE PARK
Channel 4
Three-time awardee for TV Public Service and Cultural Program
1978, 1979 and 1980 / Hall of Fame Awardee, 1981

FLOR AFABLE OLAZO
Comics and Magazine Writer
Three-time awardee for Best Comics Story / 1979, 1980 and 1981 / Hall of Fame Awardee 1982

TELE-ARALAN NG KAKAYAHAN
Channel 4
Three-time awardee for Best TV Educational Program/ 1980, 1981 and 1982 / Hall of Fame Awardee, 1983

MAGIC MOMENTS
DWIM-FM
Three-time awardee for Best Radio Musical Program / 1983 and 1984 / Hall of Fame Awardee, 1985

ATING ALAMIN
Channel 4
Three-time awardee for Best TV Educational Program
1981, 1983 and 1984 / Hall of Fame Awardee 1985

VIEWPOINT
Channel 7
Three-time awardee for Best Public Affairs Program of the Catholic Television Awards/ 1984, 1985 and 1986 /
Hall of Fame Awardee 1987

BATIBOT
Channels 4 & 9
Three-time awardee for Best TV Children's Program / 1985 and 1986 / Hall of Fame Awardee, 1987

ANALYSIS
Amado Doronila, Philippine Daily Inquirer
Best Column 1986 and 1987 /
Hall of Fame 1988

NATIONAL PARKS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE For "CONCERT AT THE PARK" & "PACO PARK PRESENTS"
Three time awardee for Best TV Cultural Programs / 1987 and 1988 / Hall of Fame Awardee 1989

PEP TALK
Channel 2
Three-time awardee for Best TV News Magazine Program of the Catholic Television Awards/ 1987 and 1988 / Hall of Fame Awardee 1989

PTV 4 CHANNEL
Three-time awardee for Best Station with Balanced Programming / 1987 and 1988 / Hall of Fame Awardee, 1989

THE LORENZO RUIZ HALL OF FAME AWARD: FR. JAMES B. REUTER, SJ

THE PROBE TEAM
GMA 7
Five time awardee for Best TV Public Service and News Magazine for the years 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994 and 1997/ Hall of Fame Awardee, 2000

HOY GISING!
ABS CBN
Three-time awardee for Best TV Public Service for the Years 1993, 1994, and 1997/Hall of Fame Awardee 2000

GMA TELESINE SPECIALS
GMA 7
Three-time awardee for Best TV Drama Program for the years 1994, 1995, and 1997/ Hall of Fame Awardee, 2000

TO SAUDI WITH LOVE
DW-7
Three time awardee for Best Radio Public Service and Counseling for the years 1991, 1995, and 1996/ Hall of Fame Awardee, 2000

McCANN – ERICKSON
Three-time Awardee for Best Radio ad for the Years 1994, 1996 and 1997

MAALAALA MO KAYA
ABS CBN 2
Three-time awardee for Best TV Drama Program for the years 1997, 2000 and 2001/ Hall of Fame Awardee, 2002

ANAK, GABAY MO!
CBTC YOUNG BROADCASTERS CLUB DWTA
Three-time awardee for Best Radio Educational Program for the years 1997, 2000 and 2001, Hall of Fame Awardee, 2002

SARANGGOLA MAGAZINE
Three-time awardee for Best Children's Magazine
For the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 Hall of Fame Awardee, 2003

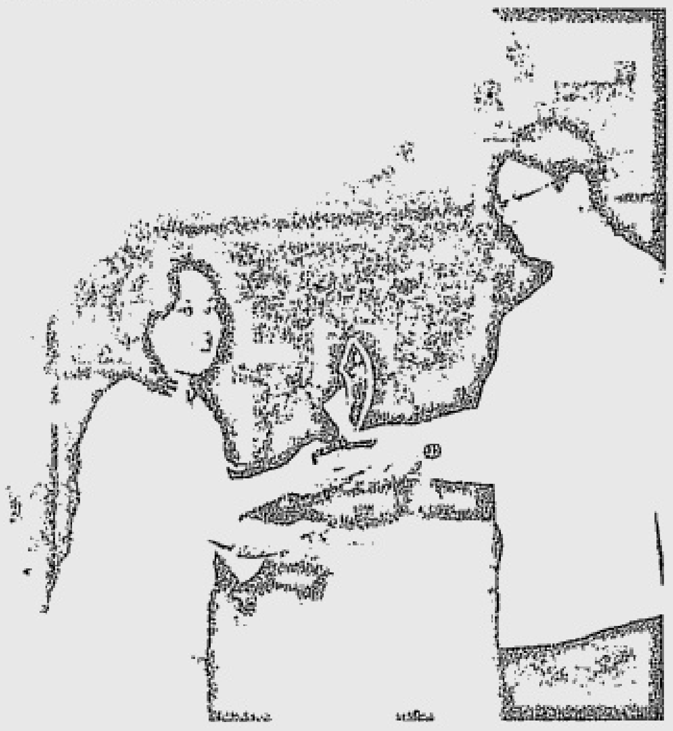
PILIPINAS ONLINE: BANTAY OCW
Three-time awardee for Best Drama Program
& Counseling and Public Service Program
for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 Hall of Fame Awardee 2003

CMMA criteria for excellence

THE CATHOLIC Mass Media Awards' five-point criteria for recognizing excellence in media are based on Pope John Paul II's Ethics in Media and the document of the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP II), which underscored the role of the Church ministry of social communications.

1. Love for God - by this, we mean and refer to media productions that honor and respect the Almighty God in His laws and statutes, and that which contribute to the wholistic development of the human person.
2. Love for Truth - media productions that reflect the highest standards of truth and fairness, with sensitivity to basic human rights; portray or expose both excellence and malfeasance in society in the pursuit of justice and the common good.
3. Love for the Family and Life - media productions that promote and respect the dignity of life and the human person, and the sanctity of the family.
4. Love for the Natural Environment - media productions that protect the dignity of man's natural habitat and all its resources, with emphasis on the principles of solidarity, justice, equity and accountability.
5. Promotion of Filipino Values - media productions that inspire nationalism or patriotism through their portrayal of genuine Filipino values like pagkakaisa (solidarity), pakikipag kapwa-tao (camaraderie), and being maka-Diyos, (pro-God), maka-buhay (pro-Life) and maka-bayan (pro-Country).

The Catholic Mass Media Awards has a five-point criteria for recognizing excellence in media



The CMMA 25th Anniversary Book

IN celebration of the 25 years of recognizing values and excellence in the various fields of media, the Catholic Mass Media Awards happily announced the publication of a Silver Anniversaty commemorative book, titled CMMA 1978-2003: 25 Years of Philippine Media through the eyes of the Catholic Mass Media Awards.

A full color, 200-page coffee table book about the CMMA, it features previous winners in radio, print, advertising, television, music and film in the last 25 years; interviews with some CMMA Hall of Fame awardees like Amado Doronila, Charo Santos-Concio, and Rey Langit,; excerpts from Pope John Paul II's message for World Communications Day and speeches delivered at the 2000 Jubilee of Journalists and Communicators, and revaluation of mass media by noted media practitioners, including Ryan Cayabyab and Orly Punzalan.

This must-have literature is an important instructional guide for those who study mass media or either in the academe or in the ministry of social communications.

It is available in hardbound (P2500) and softbound (P2000) format, but will be sold at P500 less, respectively, during the Awards Night on October 21, 2003 at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater in Ateneo de Manila.

For orders, you may call the CMMA Secretariat at Tel. Nos. 892-4779, 867-4026 or 812-1833 or write to cmma@iconn.com.ph.

A full color, 200-page coffee table book about the CMMA, it features previous winners in radio, print, advertising, television, music and film in the last 25 years

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6 MATCHSTICKMEN
7 VISIBLE SECRET 2
8 THE SUSPECT

SM CITY CEBU
2313676

1 THE MEDALLION
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 TAKE MY BODY
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 KISKISAN
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

SM CITY BACOOR
4173958

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 UNDERWORLD
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 THE TREK
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 UNDERWORLD
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 INNER SENSES
6 BUGBOG SARADO

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 THE SUSPECT
3 UNDERWORLD
4 FREAKY FRIDAY

SM BICUTAN
7763065

1 UNDERWORLD
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS
Nov. 28

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1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 THE SUSPECT
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 BUGBOG SARADO
5 UNDERWORLD
6 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
9 MATCHSTICKMEN
10 INNER SENSES

SM SOUTHMALL
8066089

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 UNDERWORLD
3 MATCHSTICKMEN
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 DEADLINE BEIRUT
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
7 BUGBOG SARADO
8 THE SUSPECT
9 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
2 VISIBLE SECRET 2
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 THE SUSPECT
5 MATCHSTICKMEN
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 UNDERWORLD
8 FREAKY FRIDAY
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11 INNER SENSES
12 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

SM CITY DAVAO
2970999

1 once upon a time in mexico
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 THE MEDALLION
4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5 ALEX & EMMA
6 THE MEDALLION

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1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
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3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 RESERVED
5 MATCHSTICKMEN
6 THE SUSPECT
7 HOW TO DEAL
8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
9 BUGBOG SARADO
10 UNDERWORLD
11 VISIBLE SECRET 2
12 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 THE SUSPECT
2 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY ILOILO
3089422

1 KATAS
2 RESERVED
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 THE MEDALLION
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
7 RESERVED
8 NEW BLOOD

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 MAGDALENE SISTERS
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 THE SUSPECT
6 UNDERWORLD
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
8 MATCHSTICKMEN
9 VISIBLE SECRET 2
10 INNER SENSES
11 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
12 BUGBOG SARADO

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592804

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

OPENS
Nov. 21

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

1 FREAKY FRIDAY
10:40 FS/11:05 MF/1:15/3:25/5:35/7:45/9:25 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:40 END

2 MATCHSTICKMEN
10:00 FS/10:15 FS/12:35/2:55/5:15/7:35/9:25 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:55 END

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1 FREAKY FRIDAY 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30 THX
2 FREAKY FRIDAY 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
3 MATCHSTICK MEN 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 THE SUSPECT 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55
6 UNDERWORLD 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55
8 BUGBOG SARADO 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55

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Ermita
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536-7809 to 12

1 UNDERWORLD - 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00
2 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES - 11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35, 10:00
3 BUGBOG SARADO - 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
4 MATCHSTICK MEN - 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
5 THE SUSPECT - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
6 FREAKY FRIDAY - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
7 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10:20, 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193/99
682-8280

1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 UNDERWORLD
5 MATCHSTICK MEN
6 THE SUSPECT
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
8 BUGBOG SARADO

Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 UNDERWORLD
2 MATCHSTICK MEN
3 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 THE SUSPECT
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
8 BUGBOG SARADO

Star Mills San Fernando Pampanga (045)875-1927 (045)961-5270		**Imus** (046)471-0188 / 875-5958
FREAKY FRIDAY	1	UNDERWORLD
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA/PILYA	2	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
BUGBOG SARADO	3	BUGBOG SARADO
INNER SENSES	4	FREAKY FRIDAY
UNDERWORLD	5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	6	AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING

Bacolod (034)441-0458/59		**Iloilo** (033)336-0070 to 78
THE MEDALLION	1	FREDDY VS. JASON
AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING	2	NEW BLOOD
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	3	HOW TO DEAL
HOW TO DEAL	4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
KISKISAN	6	THE MEDALLION

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907		**Lipa, Batangas** Old National Highway
AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	1	THE MEDALLION
PILYA	2	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3	AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
FREAKY FRIDAY	4	KATAS
BUGBOG SARADO	5	"RUNDOWN" OPENS ON OCT. 22

Malabon
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1 SUCKERS
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 UNDERWORLD
4 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

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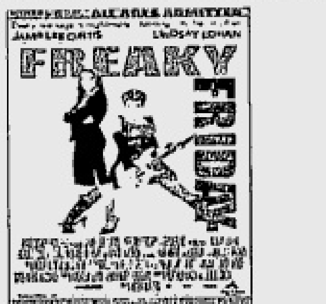

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MAGIC 89.9

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SOPHIE MARCEAU
BELPHEGOR
CURSE OF THE MUMMY

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

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CINEMA 1 FREAKY FRIDAY
11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
GP

CINEMA 2 SUSPECT
11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

MUSIC MUSEUM

OCT 23	MARISSA SANCHEZ AT THE MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM
OCT 24	SARAH GERONIMO - POPSTAR "A DREAMS COME TRUE	9:00PM

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UNDERWORLD R18 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING R18 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	FREAKY FRIDAY GP 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10
THE SUSPECT R13 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	PIGLETS BIG MOVIE GP 1:40, 3:30, 5:20	MATCHSTICKMEN PG13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20

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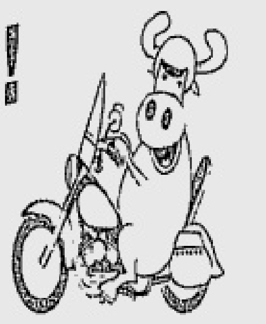

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Community Innovations Inc offers special pricing plan

THE COMMUNITY Innovations Inc (CII) announces a special payment scheme for The Columns, Ayala Avenue, starting this month to mark the continuing success of the residential condominium complex.

This special promotion commemorates the success of The Columns, which passed the half-way mark in sales in just eight months. Tower One of the three-tower complex sold out in three months.

CII is now offering units of Tower Two, buyers who wish to seize the opportunity to enter into the good life at The Columns, can now avail of special zero downpayment schemes, with monthly payments as low as P13,000.

This zero-downpayment scheme is designed to complement The Columns' already affordable standard payment schemes, which make The Columns' enviable mix of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units within reach of young urban achievers and their families.

Payment schemes can be customized to suit the needs and abilities of individual buyers, part of CII's commitment to creating and nurturing true communities in its developments.

The Columns, is the answer to the dreams of young urban achievers seeking a quality condominium residence within the Makati CBD. Sporting three 30 story towers and a uniquely integrated show-stopping Recreational Club, The Columns is one of the most talked-about properties in town.

Community Innovations Inc is dedicated to providing carefully-planned and meticulously-designed communities. An Ayala Land company, CII back its bold mission with the experience and reputation of Ayala Land as the country's leading developer.

Designers of The Columns, have described the emerging community as "a vertical village". The Recreational Club of The Columns is more than a conglomeration of amenities. It provides areas for the health and well-being of residents, in privacy and in community.

The Recreational Club provides features that are the equivalent of those in a country club or posh recreational center. For the cost of a studio, a one-bedroom or a two-bedroom, the owners of The Columns units gain a major plus that is the equivalent of a club membership.

For inquiries, call 750-0471 or 750-0484, email at cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph.

KIA TURNS OVER FLEET TO NATRAPHARM GROUP

Kia Motors Phils turned over the first set of Kia Rio Sedans to Natrapharm's Antonio De la Fuente, finance manager (3rd from left). Seen turning over the Kia Rio Sedans are (from left): Teddy Llado, general manager of Kia Commonwealth and Hernando Gañac Jr., marketing services manager of Kia Motors Phils (2nd from left). Also in photo are: Marciris Malapitan, accounting manager of Patriot Pharmaceuticals Inc, Cynthia Nazario, administrative staff of Natrapharma Group, and Owen Meneses, marketing professional of Kia Commonwealth.

SMART TURNS OVER WIRELESS LAB TO USC

Smart and the University of San Carlos (USC) recently inaugurated the first Smart wireless laboratory installed in the Visayas under the Smart Wireless Engineering Education Program (Sweep) at the USC-Technological Center in Talamban, Cebu City. Photo shows Smart president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno and USC president Fr. Roderick Salazar during the ribbon cutting.

2ND BATCH OF NESTLÉ 'GREENING THE SUPPLY CHAIN' HOLDS FORUM

As part of Nestlé Philippines' continuing initiative called 'Greening the Supply Chain (GSC),' a program to promote environmentally friendly practices among its partners, the company recently held a Business Partners Environment Forum at the Nestlé Center in Rockwell, Makati. Some 62 environmental management representatives from the second GSC batch of 40 companies joined the informative forum, opened by Nestle Phils. AVP Mira Tan, followed by presentations from three partners from the GSC's first batch on the benefits their companies have obtained. The three are Unibox Packaging Corp., Design Packaging Industries and Pure & Rich Foods Int'l. Lectures on process energy reduction and environmental regulations and issues were also held.

NOKIA, IYF, PEARSON AND UNDP LAUNCH BRIDGEIT

Nokia, the International Youth Foundation (IYF), Pearson and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently launched Bridgeit - an innovative program that uses mobile technology to bring interactive, multimedia learning materials to local classrooms around the world. Known as text2teach in the Philippines, Bridgeit was developed locally under the leadership of the Ayala Foundation and with the commitment and involvement of the Philippines Department of Education, Seameo Innotech, Globe Telecoms, PMSI-Dream Broadcasting, and Chikka Asia. Nokia senior vice president Martin Sandelin (4th from left) and Nokia executive vice president Veli Sundback (2nd from right) pose with the rest of the text2teach project proponents and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

UP Manila Alumni Homecoming

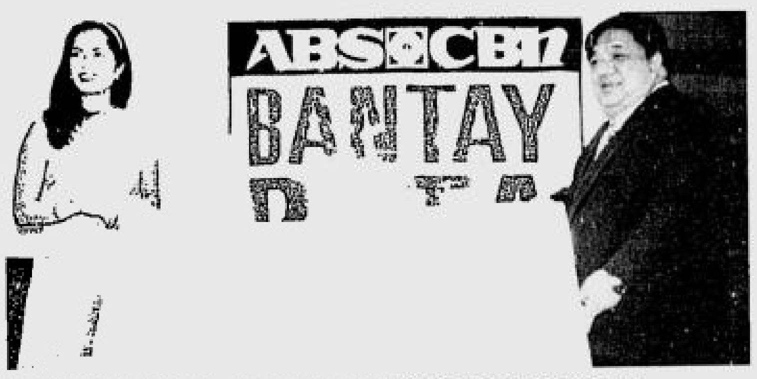
UP MANILA was born during the establishment of the University of the Philippines on June 18, 1908. In 1979, the Center was elevated to the status of an autonomous university and was renamed University of the Philippines Manila in 1983. This year, on the day that marks its establishment as an autonomous university, the Alumni Association of UP Manila's College of Arts & Sciences, together with its Dean Marilou Nicolas, host this year's Grand Alumni Homecoming on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m., at the Makati Sports Club Ballroom. The homecoming promises a night of nostalgia, of rekindling old ties, and fostering new friendships. UPCAS alumni Senator Orly Mercado and Councilor Cita Astals take on hosting chores for the program.

3rd annual 'Art for Change'

THE THIRD annual "Art for Change", an on-the-spot art contest for the youth, will be held on Oct. 25, at the Robinson's Place, Quirino Ave., Novaliches, Quezon City. The competition aims to encourage budding artists, grade school and high school students, to express on canvass their vision and thoughts about the country in the light of common aspirations for lasting peace, stability and prosperity. Participants will be vying for the first prize of P15,000, minor prizes, as well as gifts. It is jointly sponsored by the Office of Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., Robinson's Place and National Book Store. Interested participants may inquire with Myrna Ocampo or Rose Alarba at the Office of Sen. Pimentel at tel. nos. 552-6745, 552-6733 or 552-6601 locals 6501 and 6502.

Canada's trade delegation visits the Philippines

THE TRADE Delegation from Canada visits the country for a Trade Mission from Oct. 18 to 24. The initiative is spearheaded by the Philippines Canada Trade Council and the Philippine Consul General in Vancouver. The highlight of the event is the 2003 Trade Mission to Manila slated on Oct. 22 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati. It features entrepreneurial strategies for Filipinos to take advantage of, once they do business in the British Columbia. Registration fee is P1,500. For inquiries, contact Liza Muyco at 935-1102 or 0919-6934213.



BANTAY BATA 163 RECEIVES 1M DONATION

World Bazaar Festival recently endorsed a P1 million donation to Bantay Bata 163. Photo shows Joseph Ang, founding president of Worldbex Services International, formally awarding the proceeds of the 2nd World Bazaar Festival amounting to P1 million to Gina Lopez, managing director of Bantay Bata 163 of ABS-CBN Foundation.

Department of Health
Center for Health Development III
Bataan General Hospital
MARIVELES MENTAL WARD
Mariveles, Bataan

SIGLA

October 21, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The MARIVELES MENTAL WARD (MMW) will conduct a Public Bidding on November 25, 2003

1. **Drugs & Medicines and Pharmacy Supplies**
2. **Miscellaneous, Office and Medical Supplies**

Only responsible and duly accredited suppliers by the Department of Health (DOH) as certified by the DOH Accreditation Committee are qualified to participate upon presentation of the following:

1. Business Registration - DTI/SEC
2. DOH Accreditation
3. VAT/BIR Tax Clearance Certificate
4. Mayor's Permit
5. License to Operate
6. Certificate of Distributorship
7. CPR/BFAD Certificate for Product requiring Cert.
8. List qualified Product
9. Accomplished track record form
10. Authorization to participate the Bidding for New Sales/Med Rep.

Submission of Complete Requirements will be on November 10-13, 2003. Issuance of Complete set of Bid Documents will start on November 14, 2003 and ends on November 19, 2003 at the **MMW Supply Section** upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 per set. Pre-Bid Conference for Drugs and Medicines, Miscellaneous, Office and Medical Supplies will be on November 20, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, Office of the Chief of Hospital, Mariveles Mental Ward, Mariveles, Bataan. Bidders are required to submit their signed Bid proposals before 10 a.m. on November 25, 2003.

A 2.5% Bidder's Bond based on the total bid price in cash or manager's check. GSIS Bond (Callable on Demand) or Private Insurance Agency accredited by the Insurance Commission shall accompany the BID/Financial proposal and enclosed in an envelope. A 10% PERFORMANCE BOND based on the Total contract price is required for the winning bidder. The bond shall be in form similar to that of Bidder's Bond.

The MMW hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waive any formality therein and/or accepts such bids as may be considered the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL P. PONCE, M.D., C.H.A., C.E.S.e.**
Chief of Hospital III

Trunk line (047) 935-4617; AO Office (047) 935-4138; COH/SHO Office (047) 935-4613;
Supply Section (047) 935-4063; Nursing Service (047) 935-5707;
Fax Nos. (047) 935-4138/935-4063

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 21, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Second Publication

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **Upgrade of Three (3) Britten Norman Islander-2A Fixed Wing Aircraft** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **Seventy Two Million Pesos (Php 72,000,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities authorized by the appropriate civil aviation authority, which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build, upgrade or otherwise produce the BN Islander, shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will only be available for issuance starting **October 21, 2003** until **November 4, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Seven Thousand and Two Hundred Pesos (Php 7,200.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of first publication until the day before the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 4, 2003 at 1:00 PM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the BN Islander Aircraft and Naval Air Group facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of 1st stage envelopes is on **November 18, 2003 at 9:00 AM** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(original signed)
JORGE G NECESITO
Rear Admiral AFP
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Oct. 21 & 27, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes sts. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila hereby invites interested bidders to apply for:

Items to Bid for 2004 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Non-Refundable fee
Printing and Supply of Professional Identification Cards (PRC ID Cards)	P19,639,000.00 At P41.00 per card (479,000 pcs.)	November 4, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. PABE Conference Rm. 3rd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 1,000.00
Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAF)	P 311,460.00 At P1.74 per sheet of imported Bookpaper (179,000 pcs.)	November 4, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. PABE Conference Rm. 3rd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 1,000.00
Printing and Supply of OMR ID/Answer Sheets	P 4,075,120.00 At P2.66 per sheet Of imported OCR paper (1,532,000 sheets)	November 7, 2003 10:00 a.m. PABE Conference Rm. 3rd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 1,000.00

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods at the Office of the Administrative Officer, Ground Floor (beside the guardhouse), PRC Compound, starting on October 15, 2003. Deadline for submission of registration requirements shall be at 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2003. Issuance of Certification of registration to bidders for procurement of goods shall be on November 3, 2003 with a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR), may be obtained by interested bidders starting on October 15, 2003 from the Office of the Administrative Officer.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, or to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, to waive any required formality in the bids received or defects therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Commission, without giving any reason thereto and incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) **ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE**
Chairperson

(PDI – Oct. 14 & 21, 2003)

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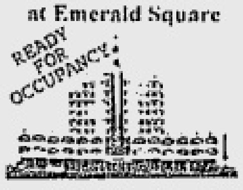

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Catherina Frederika Uyboco Morandl was extra judicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. # 261, Page # 45, Book # XI, series of 2003 by Not. Public Atty. Ramon F. Aviado Jr. of Quezon City.
(PDI – Oct. 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 2003)

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the LBP-Urdaneta Lending Center not later than November 11, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. at which place, date and time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
1. **TCT #s T-56796 & T-56795** – two (2) parcels of commercial land located at Bo. Bakit-Bakit, Rosales, Pangasinan w/ a total area of 14,343 sq.ms. with 5 poultry bldg. area – 4,183 sq.ms., & other improvements thereon.	P5,477,200.00
2. **TCT # 262256** – a parcel of agri-land located at Palguyod, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan w/ an area of 10,000 sq.ms.	530,000.00
3. **TCT # 262255** – A parcel of agricultural land located at Bobonan and Palguyod, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan with an area of 6,386 sq.ms.	338,500.00
4. **TCT# 125658** – ½ portion of agricultural land located at Palguyod, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan with an area of 2,053 sq.ms.	108,800.00
5. **TCT # 262254** – A parcel of agricultural land in Bo. Bobonan, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan with an area of 9,141 sq.ms.	484,500.00
6. **TCT# 262257** – A parcel of residential land located at Bo. Bobonan, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan w/ area of 211 sq.ms.	44,700.00
7. **TCT# 249371** – A parcel of residential/agricultural land located at Bo. Sta. Maria, Binalonan, Pangasinan with an area of 18,523 sq.ms.	1,519,000.00
8. **TCT# 239750** – A parcel of residential land located at Dorongan Punta, Mangatarem w/ an area of 1,815 sq.ms. w/ house and perimeter fence.	519,900.00
9. **TCT# 239751** – A parcel of residential land located at Dorongan Punta, Mangatarem with an area of 1,506 sq.ms.	217,500.00
10. **TCT#s 269813, 269814, & 269815** – three (3) contiguous parcels of commercial land located at Poblacion, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 1,227 sq ms.	6,503,100.00
11. **TCT # 269823** – A parcel of agri-land located at Bo. Bogtong Bolo, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 57,618 sq.ms.	916,200.00
12. **TCT#s 269818, 269819, & 269821** – three (3) contiguous parcels of agri-land located at Suaco, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 64,225 sq.ms.	1,021,200.00
13. **TCT # 269822** – A parcel of agr'l land located at Bo. Suaco, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 8,880 sq.ms.	141,200.00
14. **TCT# 269820** – a parcel of agri-land located at Bo. Sapang, M<angatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 18,142 sq.ms.	288,400.00
15. **Tax Declaration No. 15181** - a parcel of agri-land located at Bo. Bogtong-Bolo, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 40,835 sq.ms.	649,200.00
16. **TCT # 269833** – A parcel of agr'l land located at Bo. Suaco, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 8,880 sq.ms.	169,000.00
17. **Tax Declaration No. 15180** - a parcel of agri-land located at Bo. Bogtong-Bolo, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 7,812 sq.ms.	124,200.00
18. **TCT # 269817** – a parcel of residential/agri-land located at Bo. Pogon-Lomboy, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 16,017 sq.ms. and a two(2) storey res'l building with a floor area of 400 sq.ms. w/ perimeter fence	7,574,200.00
19. **TCT # 269824** – a parcel of agri-land located at Bo. Malabobo, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 112,818 sq.ms.	4,185,500.00
20. **TCT # 269825** – a parcel of agri-land located at Bo. Malabobo, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 2,504 sq.ms.	26,500.00
21. **TCT # 269826** – a parcel of agri-land located at Bo. Sapang, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with an area of 45,633 sq.ms.	483,700.00
22. **TCT #s 269827, 269828, & 269829** – three (3) contiguous parcels of res'l/agri-land located at Bo. Bueno Olo, Mangatarem, Pangasinan with a total area of 46,205 sq.ms. and a residential house with a floor area of 80 sq.ms.	4,230,200.00

If for any reason the above mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.
Bidding forms may be obtained from the Office of the Head, Pangasinan Lending Center, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan. Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be "AS-IS-WHERE-IS". The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank.
The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein or accept the bid proposals which in its judgment is most advantageous to the Bank. The Bank's decision on the matter shall be final and binding.

MR. FRANCISCO A. PASADO
Chairman
Committee on Bids and Awards
and Disposal of Bank Properties

(PDI--Oct. 21, 2003)

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JOSE BURGOS REYES POLICARPIO
"PEPE"

JOSE BURGOS REYES POLICARPIO, father of former Presidential Adviser for Legislative Affairs Secretary Jimmie Policarpio, joined his Creator on October 16, 2003 at the age of 78.

Also called "Pepe" **Policarpio** was past President of the Philippine Chamber of Industries (PCI) and a member of the UPSILON SIGMA PHI BETA Fraternity Batch of 1945. He was also Philippine Representative to United Nation Development Program (UNDP).

He obtained his Foreign Service degree at the University of the Philippines in 1947 and a member of the UP Vanguard.

He is survived by his loving wife **Rossini**; his siblings **Ricardo & Corazon, Abelardo & Purita, Lumen, Felizardo, Fabeng, Leonila** (both deceased), **Concordia & Arthur, Ruben & Teofie & Gina Joy**; his children **Jimmie & Sheila, Col. Alberto & Annette de Castro, Therese & Victor Jizon, June & Josephine (Ventura), Joselito & Gloria Holguil, Celine & Marino Buser, Franea & Paulo Cudala, Giuseppe**; his grand and great grandchildren **Tres, Simon, Jirard, Guthrie, Natalie, Gabrielle, Maria, Andrea, Christine Joie, Barbie, Baron, Bernie, Jaques** and **Baby Anne**.

Policarpio, who is from Navotas, Metro Manila was the son of Simeon and Modesta (both deceased).

His remains lie in state at the Magallanes Funeral Chapel 3, Magallanes Church, Makati City. Interment will be on Wednesday, October 22, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City following a 2 PM Mass at the Magallanes Church.

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows....
For praying with us and for us....
For the Mass, cards and messages of sympathy and condolence....
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion....
For joining us in our nightly vigils....
For attending the Masses and funeral rites....
For thinking of us in our hour of grief....
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude
From the family of the late

DR. AURELIO FABROS M.D.

OF CAPAS, TARLAC CITY
BORN: NOVEMBER 12, 1936
DIED: OCTOBER 9, 2003
INTERRED: OCTOBER 15, 2003

You are gone but for us you never left
God has you in his keeping
We have you in our hearts

So Dearly Remembered
On the Ninth Death Anniversary of

ERNESTO RODIL REGIO

Of Torrijos, Marinduque and Quezon City

Who joined his Creator on October 22, 1994.

Masses will be offered tomorrow, October 22, 2003
at the following churches:

Immaculate Conception Parish, *Cubao, Quezon City*	5:30 a.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, *Kamuning, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, *Gloria, Oriental Mindoro*	6:00 a.m.
St. Ignacio Parish, *Torrijos, Marinduque*	6:00 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish, *Pinaglabanan, San Juan M.M.*	6:30 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Shrine, *New Manila, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Loreto Parish, *Sampaloc, Manila*	4:00 p.m.

The family requests the pious reader and those whose lives he touched to say a prayer for his eternal rest.

Dra. Ma. Olga Guillen-Casale, D.V.M.

has gone to the loving arms of our Lord
on October 19, 2003.

Her husband **Johnny**; daughter **Noelle Christine**; mother **Dolgely**, sister **Joji**; brother **Gerry**; nieces and nephews request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Peter Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred after the Mass at 12:00 noon to Funeraria Paz Araneta on Thursday, October 23, 2003.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

The Officers, Directors, Members and Staff of the Philippine Marketing Association extend their deepest sympathy to the family of

MARI-LEN YSMAEL DINGLASAN

Who joined her Creator on 16 October 2003
at the age of 56.

Husband, A. **Rafael "Pompoy" C. Dinglasan,**
Children, **Rafa & Lala, Roanna, Bianca & JT**
Brothers and Sister, **Ricardo & Consuelo, Halim & Sylvia, Rosary, Charlie & Ika**
Nephews & Nieces, **Anna & Owen, Bernice & Tato, Chantal & Francis, Ricardo Jr., Ysabella, Carlos & Diego Halim.**
Grandniece, **Chantal Maria Tatiana**

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of
Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish
Multi-purpose Hall and Crypt, Doña Juana
Rodriguez Avenue,
Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 24, 2003, at La Loma Cemetery
After the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

"I am the resurrection and the Life, He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved

Sr/Inp. DANILO B. SAÑEZ, BFP

Board of Trustee/Treasurer and GSD Director
National College of Science & Technology, Dasmariñas, Cavite

His Remains lie in state at Bahay Ugnayan, Funeraria Samson 145 Bayang Luma, Imus, Cavite.

October 20-21, 2003
Necrological Service

October 22, 2003 9:00 am
Funeral Mass will be celebrated at the Imus Cathedral, Imus, Cavite

Interment will immediately follow at Imus Public Cemetery, Imus, Cavite.

The Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and the students of NCST request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS FREE OBIT DESIGN

"I waited, waited for the Lord;
who bent down and heard my cry"
Psalm 40:2

ROY ANTHONY F. VALERIO, M.D.

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 19th day of October 2003 at the age of 43.

His loving parents **Liza & Menandro**, nephew **Macky**, his only brother **Jojo, Ronnie** & little **Jojo**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel B-7, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, 22 October 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

BUSINESS

US firms to invest in shipping

By Michelle V. Remo

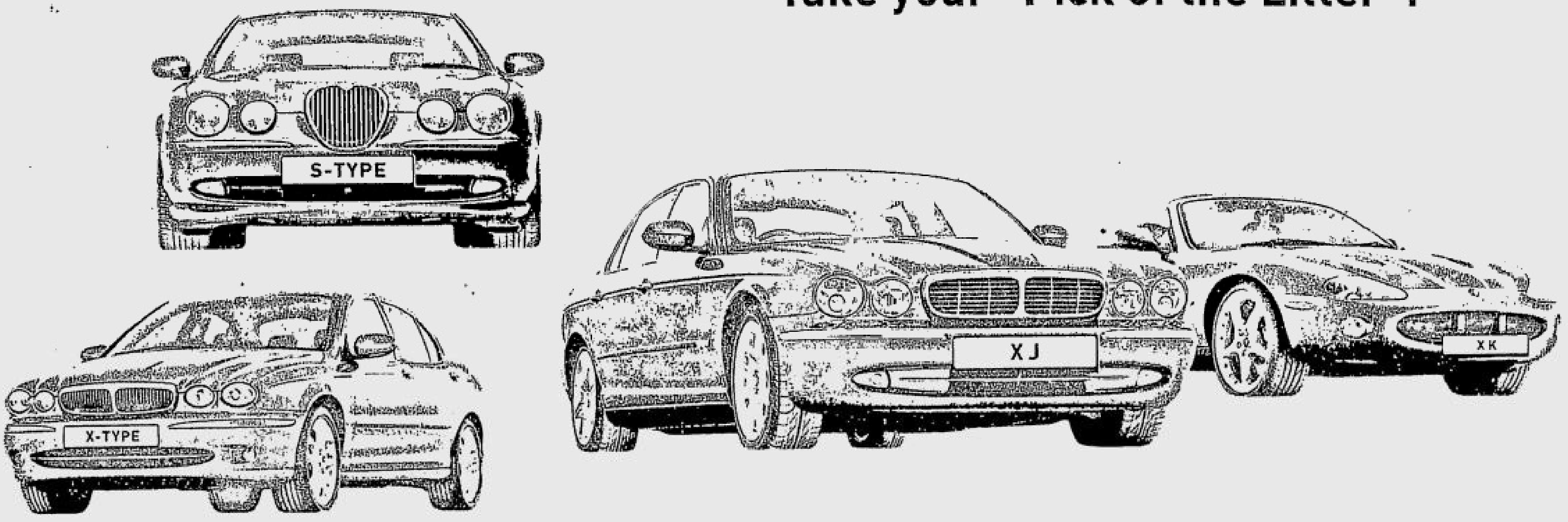
AMERICAN firms are now ready to invest in the country's shipyard sector following the Supreme Court's lifting of foreign ownership restrictions in the industry, according to the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc.

Amcham chair for legislative committee John Forbes said the rule limiting foreign ownership to 40 percent was a major factor that prevented American and other foreign firms from investing in the shipyard sector.

"That the Supreme Court decided that a shipyard is not a public utility should give foreign investors the signal that the Philippines is ready for business," Forbes said in a briefing.

Amcham executive director Robert Sears added that the chamber was satisfied with the Supreme Court's ruling, which was disclosed in a report to US President George W. Bush, who was in Manila last Saturday for an eight-hour visit.

The ruling declared that shipyards are not public utilities, thus, foreign investors could own a majority stake in a company that would invest in the sector.



Introducing... the newest breed of Jaguars for 2004.

Take your "Pick of the Litter"!

For the 2004 model year, a host of snarling new Jaguars will now become available to local car lovers. Ownership will still begin with the X-Type 2.0 V6, but now everything from our 3.0 litre Sports and SE's, to the outstanding V-8 powered models, right up to the pavement-ripping, supercharged S-Type R and XJR will now find their rightful place on Philippine roads as well. Visit our showrooms today for more information regarding these exciting new Jaguars!

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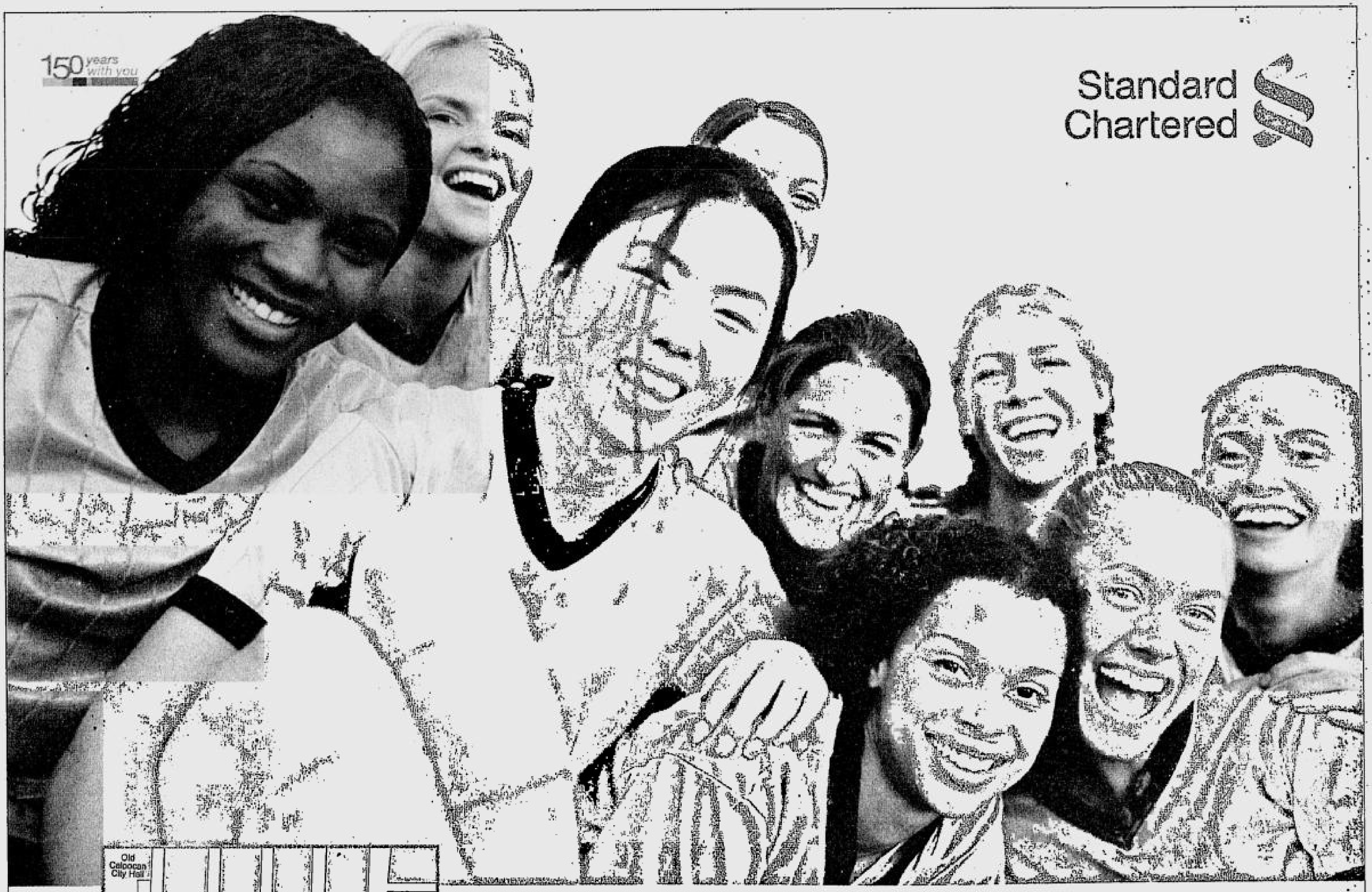

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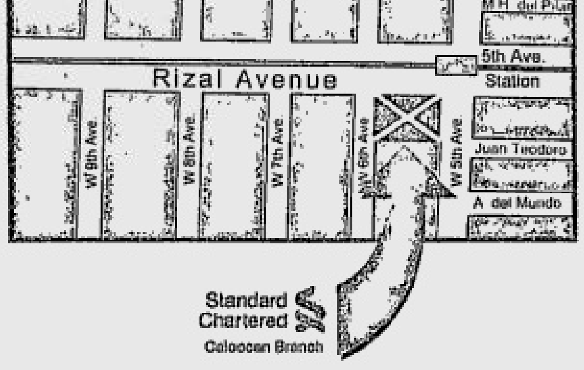

We welcome our newest team member.

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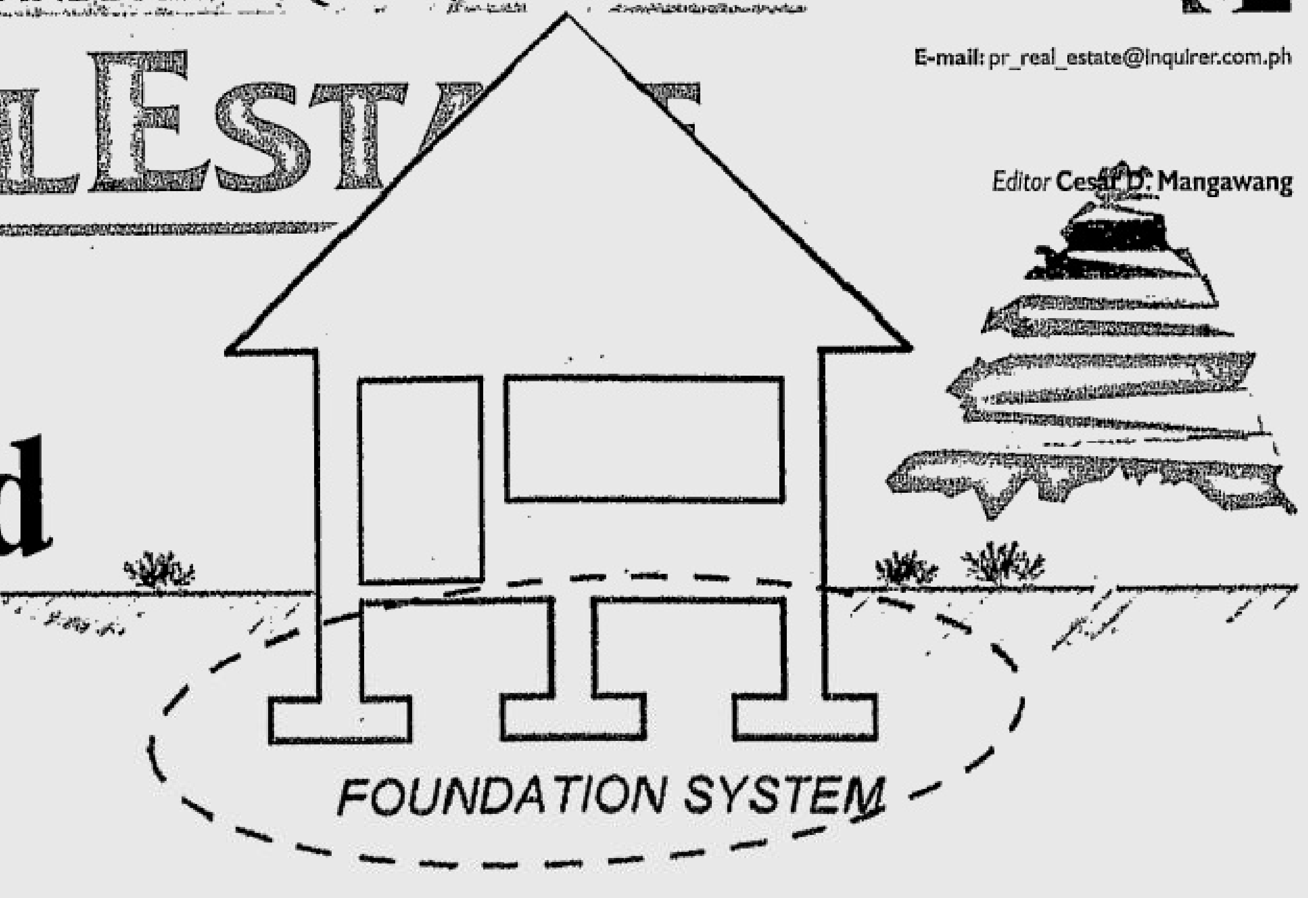
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



Building on unstable ground

By Alexis A. Acacio

If a foundation fails, then the structure that it supports may tilt and settle, endangering lives and property

THE EARTH'S crust is composed of soil and rock. Soil is the ground on which we stand and where we build our homes. They support our infrastructure and there has to be a way to adequately achieve this. Builders trust that the soil is stable and permanent and in some situations, they have been incorrect.

BUILDING DREAMS

Prior to building on a vacant lot, it is necessary that the soil condition be investigated in order that the foundation system can be properly designed. Most especially for heavy structures, information about the ground prior to construction can lead to substantial advantages in safety and costs.

There is a special field of civil engineering that studies the ground and is called Geotechnical Engineering. It is the study of the subsurface soil (the soil in which the structure will rest) and the proper design of the foundation system that will support the structure.

What a foundation system is

A foundation system supports the structure whether it is a small house, big building, airport, bridge, port or any other infrastructure. We do not see them for they are imbedded into the ground.

There are many types of foundation systems and the use of one over another is mainly dependent on the type of soil and on how heavy the proposed structure will be. These foundation systems are crucial for the safety of structures that they are supporting.

Checking foundation failures

Preventing foundation failures is one of the top priorities of geotechnical engineering. Cost-efficient foundation systems come in second. If a foundation fails, then the structure that it supports may tilt and settle, endangering lives and property.

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is one of the greatest examples of poor foundation engineering. If only the engineers studied the properties and behavior of the ground and built the correct foundation system for the tower, then it would not have tilted at all. It can however be looked at as a blessing in disguise and the Italians would not have this landmark today. Pisa would then just be an ordinary town in Italy.

Ground investigation process

In the design and construction of any infrastructure, it is the soil or ground that will determine whether it will stand or not. In the design phase, the ground is investigated for its strength and load-carrying properties. The ground is drilled and soil samples are retrieved. These soil samples are then brought to the soil laboratory for analysis and testing. The results are then evaluated by the goetechnical engineer who gives recommendations on the type of foundation to use.

This is a standard process for large and heavy structures but would you do it to your house? If your house is high and heavy or if it will be built on a slope, then it is recommended that a soil investigation be done prior to designing and constructing.

Professional advice

It is best that a professional be asked to evaluate the ground condition for you. Professionals will be able to discuss with you the types of foundation systems that you can use. You can even ask them for an opinion prior to purchasing a piece of real property since the type of foundation that is necessary can greatly influence the total cost of the building.

As an example, a building of exactly the same floor area, size and configuration will cost more to build in a certain area on soft ground than on an area of solid ground. Why? Because the foundation system on the soft ground costs more in order to support the structure that is to be built. Once you have had this information, then you can now perform a cost-benefit analysis of the building that you are to build.

Professional advice is important when you are building your house on a slope or unstable ground, a soil investigation is necessary so that the correct type of foundation system is used for your house. By this, you will have a house that is structurally safe.

The costs

A soil investigation that will determine the type and strength of the soil underneath does not cost much—only about one percent of the total cost of the structure and even less for larger projects.

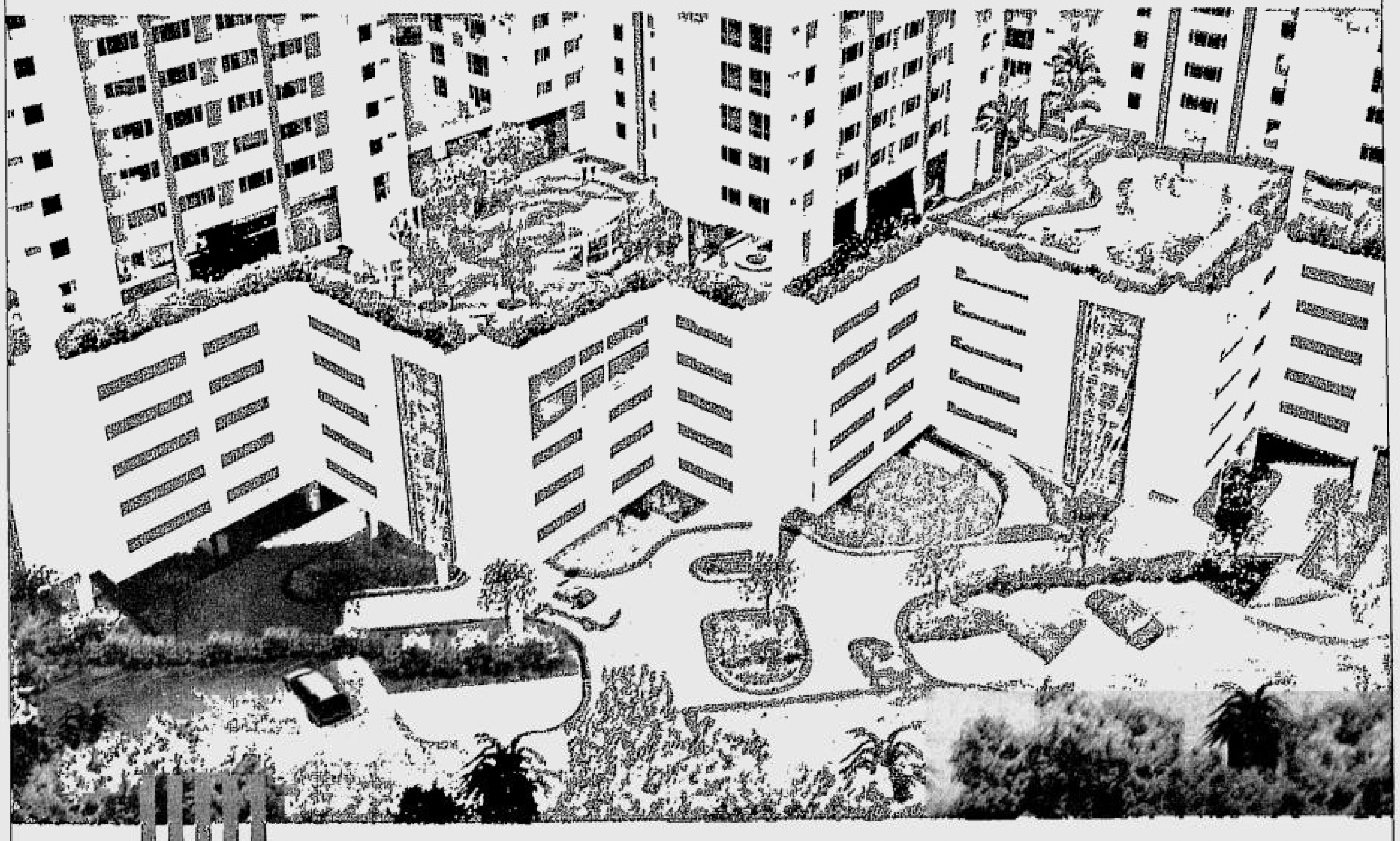
For structures higher than three floors, it is a must that soil investigation be done.

Final Note—And as the bible passage says "The wise builder builds on solid ground." However, if the ground is not solid and you really have to build, then consult your design professional.

Buy one studio unit.

And get an extra 7,000 sq. m.

with 2 pools and a gym for working out your body, Zen garden for calming your soul, function rooms for entertaining friends, transient guest rooms for those staying over, gameroom with a mini-theater, daycare center with indoor and outdoor play area, a communal wine cellar, barbecue area and complete jogging path.



THE COLUMNS
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The Columns, Ayala Avenue, a three-tower condominium project that puts you within walking distance of everything in Makati's central business district.

The Columns offer not just the comforts of home but a 7,000-square-meter Recreational Club that spans across all three towers to provide you unmatched space amid the squeeze of urban Makati. That's 7,000 square meters for your private enjoyment. For waking up muscles and resting the spirit. For entertaining guests. For bonding with neighbors. In fact, almost any activity you can think of is easy to do. Because The Columns lets you live a few steps from everything.

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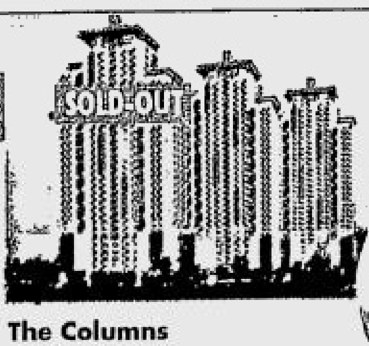
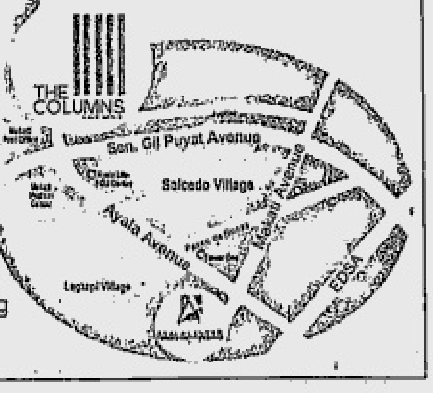


The Columns
Ayala Ave. cor Sen. Gil Puyat
Model units are available for viewing at the 3rd floor, Glorietta 3.



ISRAELI-MADE greenhouse and plant nursery

LEAVE the "dirty" works to La Finca team and still enjoy the fruits of your farm.

LA FINCA recommends open-air type homes to allow more air and sunshine.

Exclusive farm estate rises in Lipa

WHETHER it's a field to grow vegetables, cut flowers, or landscaped garden (above and below), living at La Finca is truly a relaxing experience.

By Charles E. Buban

THERE'S something about a mountain backdrop that makes it soothing and therapeutic.

In one of the loveliest corners of Lipa City in Batangas, one developer built on this premise and took advantage of the Mount Malarayat range to come up with a unique community called La Finca Country and Resort.

"We made it a point that wherever your house is located you'll get an exhilarating view of the mountains," assures Lisette Baltazar, sales and marketing director of La Finca.

The Spanish equivalent of "The Farm," La Finca is a new concept for one's second home by combining the energizing lifestyle of the gentleman-farmer with modern, exciting resort amenities.

More into hobby farming

"The trend now is more into distressing people to get them out of their busy life here in Metro Manila, and one aspect of that would be hobby farming in some place more conducive but still accessible like in Batangas," says Baltazar.

RESIDENTS can choose from a variety of designs for their house like this Balenese-inspired architecture.

The 18-hectare La Finca is special from the rest. Apart from its location (fronting the second gate of Malarayat Golf and Country Club), it will be limited to only 127 lots, thus, giving its exclusive ambience.

"Since what we are establishing here is a community, we will be providing La Finca with all the amenities of urban living (IDD and NDD telephones, cable television, Internet access etc.) plus a country club that makes the place a resort as well," describes Baltazar.

The country club's open air design is exquisitely designed by Leonardo V. Locsin and Partners to blend in perfectly with the place's ambience.

There will also be fishing lagoons, camping and picnic grounds, walkways and jogging trails, a tennis court and a swimming pool.

Lush and fertile plains

Located 366 meters above sea level along the lush and fertile plains of Barangays Dagatan and Lumbang, La Finca is just 80 km from Makati City via the Batangas exit of South Luzon Expressway and the Lipa exit of Star Tollway.

"Residents will above all appreciate the accessibility of the place and once there they will enjoy the feeling of a close-knit community, yet bask in the privacy you expect from a home in the country," says Baltazar.

Its developer, Mancon Berhad of Malaysia and Constant Builders and Development Corp. of the Philippines teamed up in making La Finca truly an exclusive and world-class property.

"This is what our president, corporate lawyer Mario Oreta, conceived—a place that he can call his second home, an experience he wants to share with the rest of La Finca residents," reveals Baltazar.

Farm estate in every sense

The developer of La Finca established a farm management team who will manage and maintain the farms of residents while they're away.

The team will also develop schemes that would help residents market their vegetables or ornamental produce.

"The developer considered farming so critical that La Finca took the services of an Israeli firm that set up the property's very own greenhouse and plant nursery and hired full time an American horticulturist to give scientific advice to residents," reveals Baltazar.

This team at La Finca will guide residents every step of the way—from tilling of the soil to marketing of the produce—or, if the resident so desires, the complete management of the farm component of the lot.

In fact, La Finca offers a profit share scheme wherein 70 percent of the lot's earnings go to its resident, giving a return of investment ranging from P7,000 to P10,000 monthly.

75 percent for farming

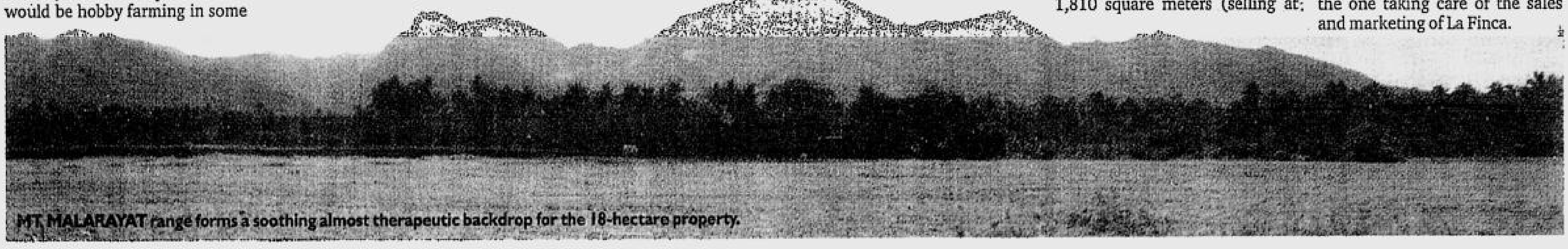
Lot sizes range from 1,000 to 1,810 square meters (selling at: P2,450 to P2,750 per sq.m).

"Seventy-five percent will be devoted to farming while the rest will be for the structure which can be contemporary Zen, Japanese, or Asian-inspired houses, depending on the buyer's choice as long as it maintains nine meters in height restriction for the property's theme," informs Baltazar.

Cash buyers are given discounts of 10 percent payable in three months at zero interest per annum while in-house financing is at 30 percent down payment and the balance payable in five years at 17 percent per annum.

"We also offer zero interest for three to 12 months and two years deferred payments and 17 percent interest for five years amortization," Baltazar says.

She adds that Noble House Group (889-8588/889-9999) is the one taking care of the sales and marketing of La Finca.


MT. MALARAYAT range forms a soothing almost therapeutic backdrop for the 18-hectare property.

NHMFC accredits Creba to help informal settlers in housing loans

THE CREBA Social Housing Foundation Chamber, the social arm of the Real Estate and Builders Associations, has been accredited by the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. as a loan originator under its Community Mortgage Program to help enable informal settlers avail of loan assistance for residential land tenure and housing security.

During the recent 2003 joint national convention of Creba and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council at the Holiday Inn in Angeles City, lawyer Angelico T. Salud, NHMFC president, formally presented the certificate of accreditation to the Creba foundation.

Established by Creba in 1992, the foundation is a nonstock and nonprofit organization aimed at promoting and supporting social housing projects and related programs.

The foundation was set up for the primary purposes of social housing advocacy, research and data banking socialized concerns, and assistance to proponents of socialized housing projects.

The accreditation of the Creba foundation will also provide affiliated housing developers with an alternative mode of complying with the requirement that 20 percent of their total housing production be socialized housing units. The foundation will be an official CMP loan originator.

SALUD, second from left, presents on behalf of HUDCC chair Michael T. Defensor the NHMFC certificate of CMP accreditation to Posadas. With them are, from right, Creba national president Florentino S. Dulalia Jr., EVP Purita R. Soliven and presidential adviser Pete C. Tario.

Creba held its October national convention on the theme "Sustainable Urban Development as a Key Element towards a Strong Republic." The joint Creba-HUDCC gathering coincided with Creba's 30th founding anniversary this year. Lawyer Manuel M. Serrano, a developer and businessman and chamber board chair, led a group of industry leaders in establishing Creba. He is the incumbent board chair, while the national president is Florentino S. Dulalia Jr.

Creba has emerged as the industry's largest organization of stakeholders with chapters nationwide. Recently, it established the Creba International Foundation to help in the global marketing of Philippine property. Several Creba US chapters have been organized and a delegation of Filipino-American realtors joined the last national convention and discussed with developers and professionals what was described as the $27-billion Filipino-American market.

The current officers and board members of the Creba Social Housing Foundation are Domingo D. De Vera, chair; Demetrio L. Posadas, president; Choy L. Alas, vice president; Jeanne G. Menguito, treasurer; Marose C. Rodriguez, board secretary; engineer Porthos P. Almajo, Rosemarie C. Basa, Adelaido De Guzman, lawyer Amado B. Deloria, Teresita C. Millan, Jerry M. Navarrete, architect Enrique C. Panis and Pedro C. Tario, trustees.

Swiss group holds seminar on standard contracts

FOR FILIPINO contractors, engineers, contract managers, consultants, lawyers, arbitrators, mediators and conciliators, all roads will lead to the World Trade Center on Nov. 13-16 for PhilConstruct 2003, the country's most comprehensive construction trade show.

One of the highlights of PhilConstruct 2003 is the TechnoForum seminar series, which is divided this year in four parts: the technology series, the equipment series, the IT series and the management series.

Kick-off event

For the management series, the kick-off event of the TechnoForum 2003 to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the Philippine Constructors Association and the Council of Engineering Consultants of the Philippines (Cecophil) will bring in experts from the Federation Internationale Des Ingenieurs-Conseils (Fidic) headquarters in Switzerland to present and discuss the four standard forms of contract, said engineer Liberto Espiritu, PCA vice president and TechnoForum 2003 chair.

"The Fidic, an international group of consulting engineers, is concerned with the maintenance of high ethical and professional standards and the continued development of engineering as a profession in developing countries." It represents most of the world's independent consulting engineers.

Fidic contracts

The Fidic is also noted for developing the four standard conditions of contract being used worldwide, which are known as the Red Book ("Conditions of Contract for Construction"), the Yellow Book ("Conditions of Contract for Plant and Design-Build"), the Silver Book ("Conditions of Contract for Engineer-Procure-Construct") and the Green Book (short form of contract).

"We're pushing the use of the Fidic contracts since they are used very sparingly in the Philippines at present," added engineer Jorge Consunji, the PhilConstruct 2003 chair. "This is the documentation that is the norm worldwide. It is imperative that we utilize it, in order to make sure that our construction industry becomes globally competitive."

According to engineer Eric Ruiz, Cecophil president, the Fidic experts will explain the underlying principles of the documents during the two-day seminar.

International trends in consulting engineering, business practices, quality management and capacity building will also be tackled during the seminar.

"This is really the most formidable and comprehensive of the seminars in the TechnoForum," said engineer Emilio Tumbucon, PCA president.

For details, call the PCA at 631-2778 or 631-3135.

Moldex develops new subdivision in Bulacan

HERITAGE Homes Phase 7 is the name of the new residential project developed and launched by Moldex Realty Inc. in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Located within Metrogate Maycauayan II, a prime residential estate on Bahay Pari Road, it is designed for families who dream of owning quality yet budget-friendly homes in the suburbs.

House-and-lot packages

Designed around the theme "Simple Luxuries, Simple Pleasures," Heritage Homes Phase 7 offers house-and-lot packages priced from P525,188 to P655,770.

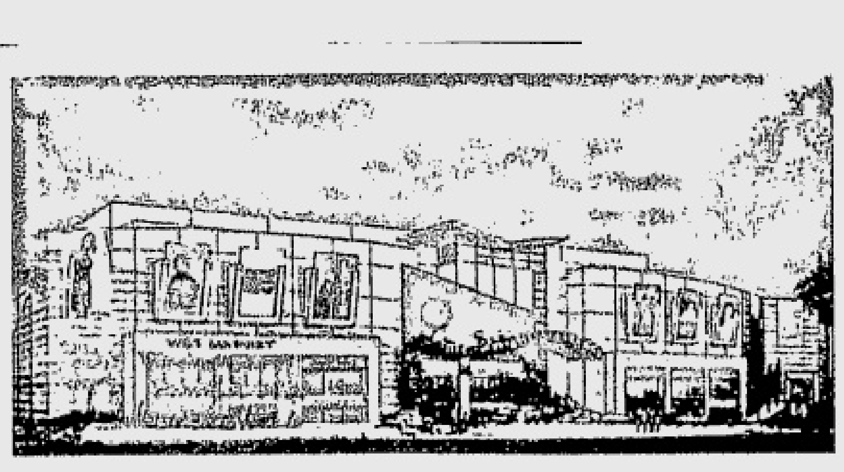
Buyers can avail themselves of Pag-Ibig financing facilities. Housing units with floor areas ranging from 30 to 35 square meters are designed with provisions for expansion on 84-sq.-m lots.

Project features

Amenities include a clubhouse, swimming pool, multipurpose hall, children's playground, pavilion, basketball, volleyball and tennis, courts, and landscaped parks and open spaces.

The project features a concrete road network system, underground drainage system, centralized water distribution system, elevated steel water tanks and pumping stations, Meralco electrical lines with street lighting, and a provision for telephone lines.

Future residents of Heritage Homes Phase 7 will benefit from the provincial government's current programs for artistic, socio-economic and cultural development.

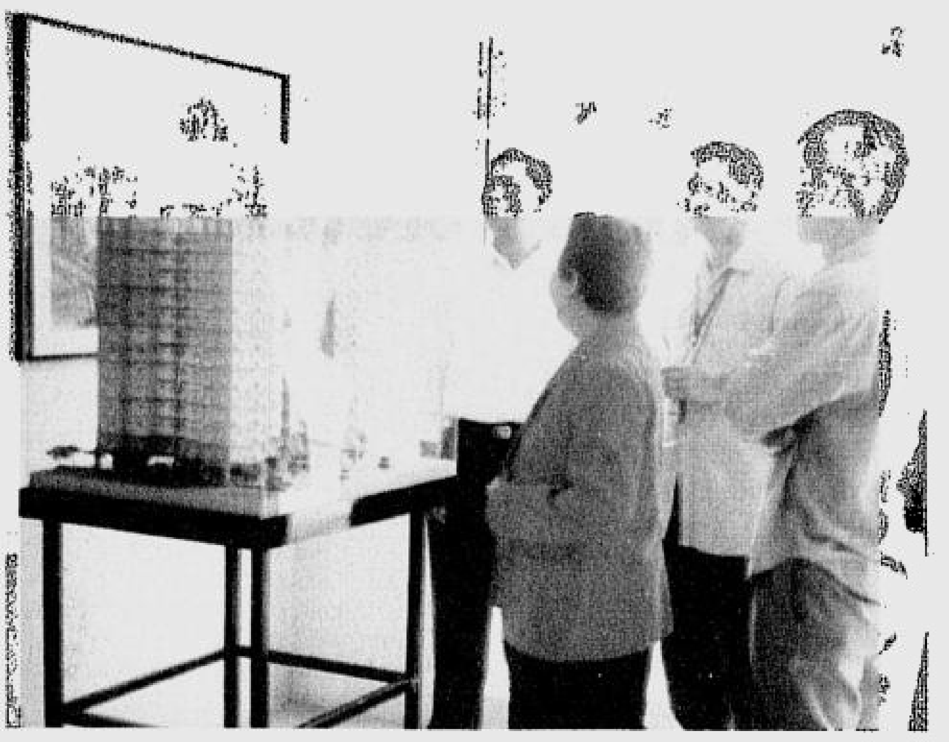

FRC SUPER MALL

This is the artist's perspective of the FRC Super Mall that Cuevasville Realty and Development Corp. is putting up in Imus. The super mall will sit on an 8,400-square-meter lot on Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Highway. Once finished, its total floor area of 34,800 sq.m will accommodate big-time retailers led by Pure Gold Price Club and fast-food outlets like KFC. FRC Super Mall will feature first-class amenities including state-of-the-art cinemas. Its 7,400 sq.-m basement parking can accommodate hundreds of cars for consumer convenience.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

One Aeropolis: Airy living in urban world

PANORAMIC windows are domestic in One Aeropolis units.



LPHI'S Jing Concepcion briefs buyers of One Aeropolis features.

QUALITY community developer Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. introduces One Aeropolis to city dwellers who desire affordable but quality condominium living in an airy environment.

Strategically situated in fast-growing Sucat, Parañaque, One Aeropolis lives up to its Greek-inspired name which means airy city. Its name likewise presents a unique reference to its nearness to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the South Super Highway.

Superb location

The project covers 2.2 hectares and is situated within a commercial zone on Dr. A. Santos Avenue (formerly Sucat Road), a major artery in Parañaque City. Right across is SM-Sucat, a one-stop commercial mall replete with popular eateries, retail stores, service shops, theaters and amusement outlets.

Makati's central business district is just 20 to 30 minutes ride away. Churches as well as private schools and universities are likewise within easy reach.

It is not surprising that within three and a half months since the start of its construction, 70 percent of the units in the first building has been sold.

Early move-in date

Buyers need not wait long to experience One Aeropolis. While most high-rise construction normally take between three and five years to complete, it will take One Aeropolis only 16 months to deliver selected units to end-users.

Launched only on June 15 this year, Building One will be ready for occupancy by December 2004. In the construction industry, that is speed par excellence.

Yet, structural integrity is committed. A total of 46 reinforced concrete pyles, which measure 1 meter in diameter each, are driven 28 meters deep into hard ground, providing the solid foundation for each building. Confident as it is, LPHI is providing warranties on all vital structures and facilities.

Atrium advantage

One Aeropolis is a master-planned complex of 12 condominiums, comprising of 12 floors each. It boasts of not one but two atriums within each structure. These wide openings span from the roof to the ground floor and allow soft, free-flowing breeze to glide within the hallways and stairwells. This enhances natural ventilation. Tame sunlight streams through a broad translucent ceiling for improved natural lighting.

On each floor are 20 residential units. Buyers have two basic choices: corner units (four per floor, each measuring 43 square meters in floor area; and smaller units (16 per floor) of 20 square meters each. Units can be combined to satisfy bigger space needs up to 200+ square meters.

Each unit has panoramic windows that welcome natural sunlight in. These prominent windows are elevated just 8 inches from the floor and stretch close to the ceiling and wall corners. The ceiling itself has been raised 8 inches higher than normal standard to engender a feeling of roominess. Thus, the natural lighting and spacious feeling at the atrium extends all the way inside each of the residential units.

With lush green along the ledges and around the atrium, buyers get a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere for quality living and stress-free comfort. These features affirm its attraction as a welcome oasis for urban living.

Complete village

The features, amenities and facilities of One Aeropolis make it virtually a complete village unto itself.

Precious weekends can readily be spent at One Aeropolis. Right at the middle of the complex is a multipurpose community center. Within it are a clubhouse, a swimming pool and a well-manicured open park fitted with a children's playground and a picnic site. For early morning walkers or runners, a jogging path conveniently snakes around the center.

A concrete perimeter wall-fence secures the entire complex. As one enters the landscaped entryway, he or she is greeted by a well-appointed guardhouse right at the entrance gate. This portal opens into a main road measuring 8 meters wide which traverses around the project site.

In addition to parking spaces at the ground floor of each high-rise, there is a separate multileveled parking podium within the complex.

It includes an integrated electrical power distribution system, a centralized underground water cistern and overhead tanks for 24-hour water supply, and telecommunication and cable facilities. In addition, each structure has two elevators, a three-chamber septic tank, and a fire protection system. Each residential unit includes a mailbox at the lobby and a drying cage at the roof deck.

On top of round-the-clock security, project developer LPHI, a subsidiary of Ayala Land Inc., also oversees the village administrative and maintenance staff. Eventually, all these will be turned over to the homeowners' association.

Remarkable pricing

While the project has a high-end design—given its twin atriums, high ceiling, expansive windows, centralized community activity hub, parking podium, and solid structural integrity, among others—its unit rates are remarkably affordable. The smaller 20-square-meter units cost only P900,000, while the bigger 43-sq.-m units are competitively priced at P2.2 million.

All the features and advantages mentioned above truly make One Aeropolis prime picking. This easily explains why 70 percent of the units in Building One were already sold out just barely three and a half months after construction began. Majority (around 70 percent) bought single units; but almost one out of three (around 30 percent) acquired double or more.

So, if you're in search of a well-ventilated, naturally illuminated, lush and spacious living sanctuary that has a quick delivery turnaround, structural integrity and an affordable price, then check this one out. One Aeropolis may just be the answer to your search.

Earth+Style launches P3.5-B township project in Laguna

PROPERTY developer Earth+Style Corp. recently launched the Jubilation New Biñan, a township development project being put up within a sprawling 154-hectare property in Mamplasan, Biñan.

Victor H. Manarang, president and chief executive officer, said the company is investing P3.5 billion into the master-planned project.

Transformation

The development will help transform the once-agricultural municipality into a world-class urban destination. The launch was highlighted with the inauguration of the Mamplasan access road led by Laguna Gov. Ningning Lazaro and Rep. Uliran Joaquin.

The Mamplasan access road connects the South Luzon Expressway to the town proper of Biñan, traversing through the Jubilation New Biñan. The project will have commercial, industrial, residential, educational and institutional components.

The housing units will cater to the broad middle income-class dwellers in four different phases. Development of the project will be in a span of four to five years.

Biñan is home to industrial parks such as the Laguna Technopark, the Laguna International Industrial Park and the Mamplasan development zone where Earth+Style has land acquisition.

The access road will be formally opened to private and selected public motorists. It is anticipated that this will eventually be the preferred entry point to and from Biñan, as opposed to the traffic-prone Carmona exit, thus boosting Biñan's rapid growth and development.

Next destination

Mamplasan, one of the 24 barangays of Biñan, is envisioned by property planners as the next urban growth destination owing to its proximity to Laguna's industrial hubs, where more than 200,000 jobs are available.

Aside from Jubilation New Biñan, pharmaceutical company United Laboratories and Brentville International School are also locators at Mamplasan.

The area is also accessible to the Makati and Ortigas central business districts.

With the access road, it will take Biñan residents only 30 minutes to reach Makati and 45 minutes to Ortigas via the Mamplasan Interchange.

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World's best holes recreated in Summit World 18

AMERICAN golf course designer Robert Trent Jones Jr. has recreated the world's best golf holes in Summit Point World 18, a new golfing community in Lipa City, Batangas. With holes inspired by those found in well-known courses in the United States and Europe, Summit Point World 18 is expected to attract all sorts of golfers, from the serious ones to the plain curious.

"This will surely be an exciting course," the 63-year-old Jones said after inspecting the partially built course recently and trying out some holes. "It would be challenging for players to guess which famous hole inspired each of these holes."

Most qualified

Having designed more than 200 golf courses in 38 countries the past 40 years, Jones is undoubtedly the most qualified to recreate what to his standard are the world's best holes.

Among the holes he picked for Summit Point World 18 were those that composed the so-called "Amen Corner" (10th, 11th and 12th holes) of Augusta National in Georgia, USA; the 12th hole of Sotogrande in Cadiz, Spain (a course designed by his father, RTJ Sr.); three holes from three different courses in Pebble Beach, California; and the classic 14th hole of the ancient Saint Andrews course in Scotland, the birthplace of golf.

Spirit of the hole

"These are holes that I love," said Jones, who has designed six other championship golf courses in the Philippines including those in Canlubang, Laguna and the one inside the Ayala Alabang. He clarified he merely "borrowed their spirit."

Said Jones: "It is impossible to copy a hole completely because you have to deal with the climate, the topography and dozens of other factors. But you can borrow the spirit, the *karma*, of the hole. This is the thing that makes a hole great, the thing that gives it character."

Started two years ago, the Summit Point World 18 is a project of Leviste family of Batangas and Sta. Lucia Realty, the country's biggest golf developer. Aside from the championship course, Summit Point World 18 will have a residential estate, modern clubhouses and top-rate amenities.

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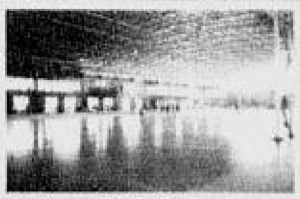

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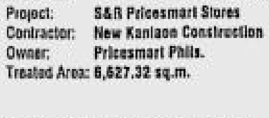

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Upscale residential condo constructed in style

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE CONSTRUCTION of The Shang Grand Tower may have been delayed for more than five years, but when the Hong Kong-based conglomerate Kuok Group of Companies finally decided to go through with it, it did so in style.

Tomas C. Zita Jr., country head of the Kuok Group in the Philippines, says the upscale residential condominium project in Makati would be completed in time for the expected rebound in the real estate market by around 2005.

Zita admits the project had to be pushed back because of the real estate slump that started in 1997 but still hounds the country. He, however, says the Kuok Group has seen a pickup in activity, prompting the group to launch The Shang Grand Tower.

Manhattan-type building

The Shang Grand Tower was envisioned as a Manhattan-type building standing some 46-stories high, which will tower over all other buildings near its site at the corner of Dela Rosa, Perea and Nieva Streets in Legaspi Village, behind The Enterprise Center.

Architects are P&T Architects and Engineers Ltd. and local Recio + Casas Architects.

Construction is in full swing and the P2-billion project is fully funded by the Kuok Group. The building includes three parking floors, one ground level, two main entrance lobbies, 250 residential units and 470 parking slots.

Only 169 units are up for sale. These consist of one-, two- and three-bedroom units. The smallest is a one-bedroom unit that costs P6.5 million and covers 80 square meters. The most expensive is the P22-million penthouse unit.

THE SHANG Grand Tower's plush interiors as represented in the living room of this model unit

The Shang Grand Tower is the latest residential project of The Kuok Group, which is known through Asia Pacific for its chain of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts. It has three in the Philippines—Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel and Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort Hotel.

The Kuok Group also developed The Enterprise Center in Makati and the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong.

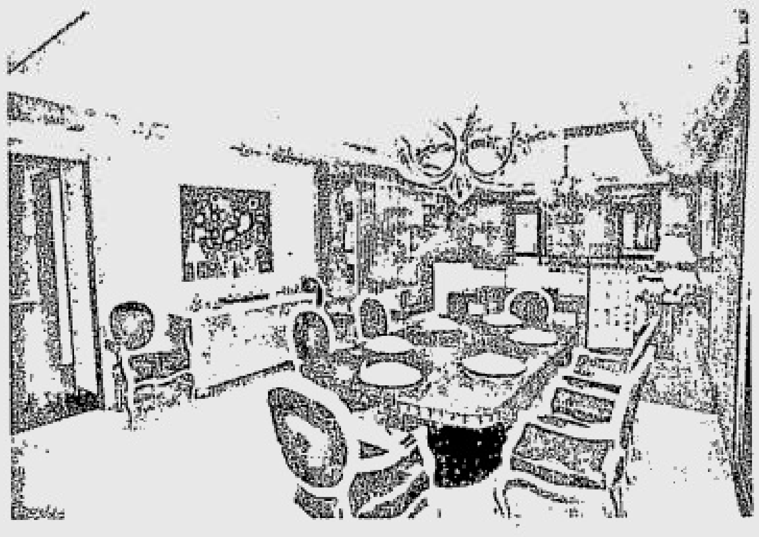
First residential project

The Shang Grand Tower is its first residential project in the Philippines, although Zita says there are long-term plans to put up similar projects near its Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong.

The Kuok Group, through its Kerry Properties Ltd. in Hong Kong and All Green Properties Ltd. in Singapore develop similar property projects in the region.

These include the China World Trade Center in Beijing, the Shanghai Kerry Center, the Kerry Beijing Center and Shenzen Kerry Center. Its residential condominium projects include the Aigburth, Branson 2, Tavistoc 2 and Valverde in Hong Kong.

The model units of The Shang Grand Tower are open for viewing at the project sales office, 4th Avenue corner Rizal Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, in front of the Pacific Plaza condominiums.


THIS dining room carries the plush interiors the Shang Grand Tower is famous for.

THE NEW clubhouse is a centerpiece of Brentville International's commitment toward providing a relaxing and wholesome environment for residents.

Brentville: 'Foresight, insight forum'

ONE of the most compelling topics which is top-of-mind in the business world nowadays is the question of economic resiliency and the future of real estate in the Philippines.

Brentville International, a high-end residential development in Biñan, Laguna, is an example of a Filinvest Land Inc. project that has successfully broken the political and economic barriers besetting the country since the onset of the Asian crisis.

Excellent residential option

Brentville has become an excellent residential option for expat families and locals whose children attend the Brent School. It is a wonderful community of different communities, each one gated and beautifully landscaped in the Filinvest tradition. A few months ago, the Brentville Clubhouse was inaugurated, giving residents a venue for social or family gatherings by the pool.

Exclusive forum

Inspired by calls of the business sector for institutions and individuals to keep the wheels turning despite present hurdles, Brentville International has organized an exclusive forum among its potential investors and friends.

Slated on Oct. 22 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Filinvest Penthouse, BPI Card Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati, the forum is titled "Foresight and Insight."

Well-known real estate consultant and appraiser Bobby Sy will talk about current trends and opportunities in the real estate industry. Sy is currently the president of the Philippine Association of Realty Appraisers (Para) and has been a licensed realtor for the past 13 years and a licensed real estate appraiser for six years now.

Technical savvy

With an impressive set of credentials which includes a diploma in Land Use Planning, and a candidate for an M.A. degree in Urban and Regional Planning, Sy's technical savvy will be generously shared with his audience.

During the discussions, Sy will cover aspects related to investment management, particularly in real estate, and he will act as moderator to ensure that the insights of the foreign community, business development officers of well-known commercial establishments and other authorities on the subject will be carefully integrated and disseminated. Filinvest Land's officers will also be available for consultations.

Brentville International initiated this forum to share valuable inputs from Sy and other luminaries in business from local and foreign communities.

Invited to the forum are residents and owners of Brentville International properties, investors from Malaysia, Korea, Taiwan and Japan plus individuals interested to be updated on the real estate trends and investment opportunities in the Philippines.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Understanding the glycemic index

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

IN THE DAYS when the low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet was king, very few people knew what the glycemic index or GI was all about. It was used mainly by diabetics and athletes to help them maintain stable blood sugar levels.

Today, the low-carb diets reign, and the GI has become part of weight-loss jargon. It was first introduced to the dieting public in books like "The Zone" and "Sugar Busters."

In this year's best-selling diet book, "The South Beach Diet," author and cardiologist Arthur Agatston recommends eating foods low on the GI scale to control sugar cravings and hunger.

The GI is a measurement of how fast a food with carbohydrates will make your blood sugar levels rise. The standard against which all foods are measured is glucose, which will increase your blood sugar by 100 percent in two hours. So glucose is given a numerical value of 100.

A high GI score is 70 and above, a medium GI is between 56 and 69, and a low GI is 55 and below (based on the Revised International Table of Glycemic Index and Glycemic Load Values).

To give you an idea, here is a short list of common foods and their GI.

Baked potato—85
Corn flakes—84
Honey—74
Watermelon—72
White bread/Bagel—70-72
Table sugar—65
Raisins—64
Orange juice—57
White rice—56
Popcorn—55
Corn—55
Brown rice—55
Sweet potato—54
Banana (Ripe)—50
Orange—43
Apple juice—41
Apple—36
Pear—36
Skim milk—32
Green beans—30
Lentils—29
Grapefruit—25
Barley—25

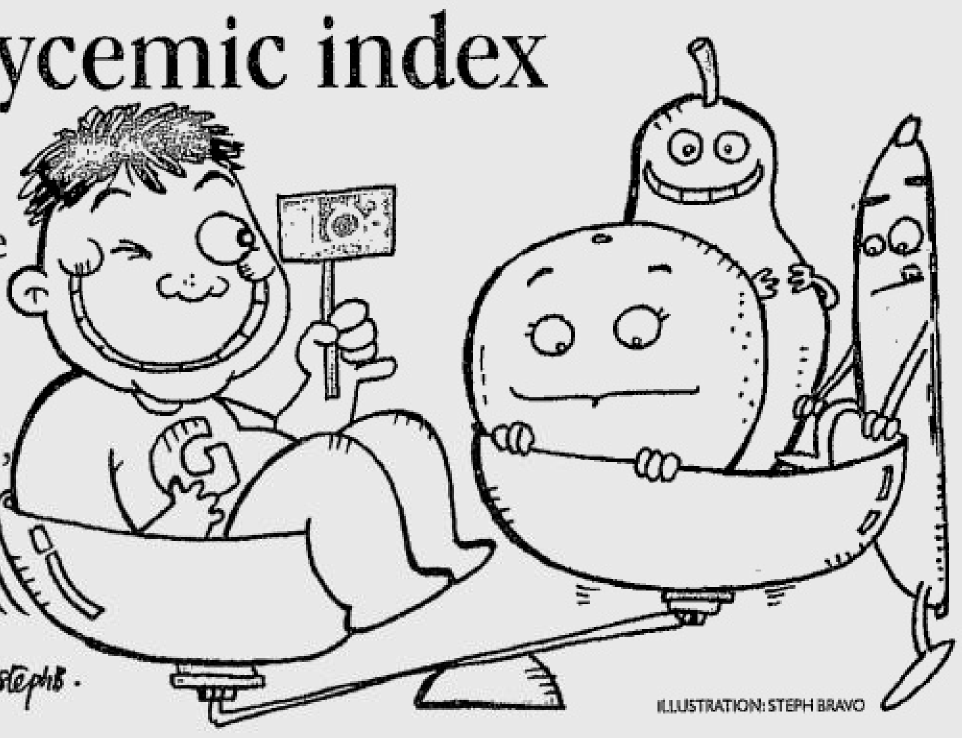
The theory is that when you eat a high GI food, it raises blood sugar levels quickly, which triggers the pancreas to release the hormone insulin. This, in turn, lowers blood sugar levels just as quickly, which activates the hunger response.

Take-home lesson

In a study conducted by Dr. David Ludwig, overweight teenage boys were divided into three groups. Each group was given three different breakfasts with the same amount of calories. Group 1 had a low-GI

UNDERSTANDING/ D3

> The GI is not a perfect guide to choosing healthy carbohydrates, and is only part of the weight-loss jigsaw puzzle



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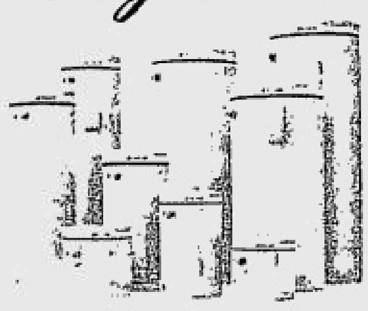

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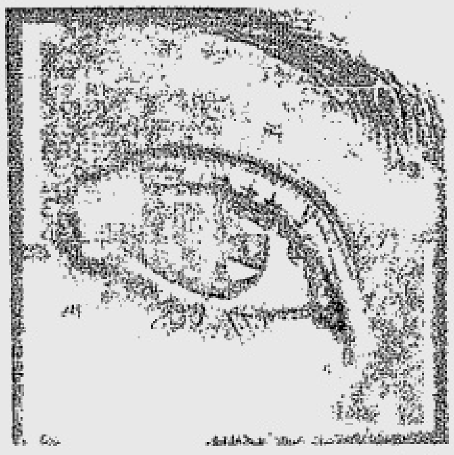


for Asian Eyes

MANILLE and Davao connections: John Silva with Chelo Roxas Javellana, Margie's beautiful mom, Rosario Roxas Moran, Jonathan Best and Angel Javellana

MARGIE'S fun gang of Davao: Fe Llamas, Vicky Siy, Jenny Floirendo, Chari Gavino, Zinia Larrabaster, Generose Ferazzini and Alexandria Linkemer

TOTO Siy and Jimmy Uy (seated); with Nonoy Llamas, Ricky Floirendo and Anton Ferazzini

REP. Tonyboy Floirendo and Paul Larrabaster (seated); with Willie Yap and Jenny Floirendo

THE FUN Manille pack: Margie with Malou Laurel, Karen Santos, Nina Romualdez, Cory Quirino, Carmita Francisco, Raul Manzano, Jomar Munarriz and Dawn Zulueta Lagdameo

DASHING Jose Marfori

When Greek gods and goddesses gather to toast a queen

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

AGELESS beauty **Margie Moran Floirendo** definitely has the Midas touch.

Our Miss Universe recently became a golden girl, and celebrated it with appropriate glitter and glamour at her sprawling Insular Village residence in Davao City.

The place was gorgeously transformed into a Greek-inspired kingdom packed with super fun invitees in Grecian outfits, with Margie herself a standout as a stunning Greek Goddess.

By a beautiful coincidence, her golden year also marked the 30th anniversary of her 1973 Miss Universe triumph in Athens, Greece, a day before her birthday.

That accounts for the theme and motif of this grand celebration, *palanggas*.

Assisting Margie and **Tonyboy Floirendo** in turning their home into a Greek palace—complete with Doric columns and a statue of goddess Aphrodite no less—were her sister-in-law and another beauty herself, **Jennifer Sasin Floirendo**, and talented **Marissa Teng Eng Fo**, a close friend of the couple.

The buffet table centerpieces were groaning with assorted fruits and beautiful flower arrangements of red and white roses, illiums and milfores gathered from the Floirendo farm.

For a change, the invitees from Manille and Davao breezed in on time, dressed up like gods and goddesses of Greek mythology.

They were met by waiters in white classical and modern Greek costumes who served an endless flow of booze and the most fabulous and authentic home-cooked Greek cuisine, excellently cooked by our *palangga*, **Vangie Jenisan**, also Margie's long-time personal cook.

The recipes, in turn, were prepared by long-time Philippine Greek resident **Phil Adamson**, whose father was the Greek honorary consul to the Philippines at the time Margie was crowned Miss Universe.

The music of the '70s sent everyone to the dance floor, including **Irene Santiago** and Rep. **Pat Sarenas**, elegant **Inday del Rosario**, all-time beauty **Dawn Zulueta Lagdameo**, **Mary Ann Montemayor**, **Jackie Dizon**, vivaciously adorable **Gina Aboitiz**, **Rose Elaine Alcantara**, **Betsy Torres**, **Lilian Abella**, **Alexis Jamora** and **Fe Dacudao**, plus many others like them who were escorted by their similarly hotshot hubbies.

Also enjoying the evening were Davao hotelier **Art Boncato**, **Neneng de la Paz** and **Baby Robillo**, DOT's **Roger Layson** and banker **Yvone Sasin**.

Tonyboy's friends were also there, like good-looking **Al Aboitiz**, **Willy Yap**, **Willy Torres**, **Nonoy Llamas**, **Paul Larrabaster**, **Toto Siy**, **Jimmy Uy**, **Sonny Dizon**, PSC commissioner **Binggoy Montemayor**, Tadeco's **Geoffrey Linkemer** and wife **Alexendria** and Margie's favorite cousin **Iso Montalvan**, who was with her fantastic parents, **Angel** and **Chelo Montalvan**.

The ball's highlight was when the waiters performed a dance to the strains of "Zorba the Greek," followed by bottoms-up gulps of the potent drink "Oozo." This lethal concoction was brought in by none other than the life of any party, **Carmencita Francisco**.

Hawaiian luau

The second day, Sunday, another birthday bash, this time a colorful Hawaiian-inspired gathering, was held at the Barcelo Pearl Farm Beach Resort, exclusively for Margie's Manille pals who flew to Davao for the two-day happening.

Leading the pack was, *naturellement*, **Raul Manzano** and *moi*, joined by handsome **JV Bautista**, **Karen Santos**, **Maan Hontiveros**, southern gent **John Silva** and his buddy **Jonathan Best**, **Angel Ramos**, vivacious **Jomar Munarriz**, **Malou Laurel** (the lady who should have her own TV comedy show), **Monch Cruz** and **Nina Romualdez**, **Carmita Francisco**, famous alabaster beauty **Cory Quirino**, **Bonjin Bolinao** and no-fail headturner **Carol Masibay Garcia**.

Margie's golfing buddies also made it to the party, including businessman **Peng** and his wife **Vicky Perez de Tagle**, **Manolo Aquino**, and **Anton** and **Gene Rose Ferazzinni**.

The resort staged a fabulous luau, with Cory, Jomar and Margie herself joining in as hula dancers. The theme was "Fantasy Island," and *naturellement*, everybody's wild fantasies were read out by hilarious Malou Laurel to a hooting crowd.

The party even got wilder at one of the private homes after most of the Davao guests had gone back to the mainland. There, we discovered that some lady guests could easily put Las Vegas showgirls to shame.

Even after hitting the sack at past 3 a.m, Margie woke up early the next morning to join Tonyboy's constituents in the second district of Davao del Norte, who were celebrating the feast of Panabo.

The feast officially started with a Pontifical Mass, which was made more solemn when the superb Davao Boy's Choir (which Margie had organized) sang during the Mass.

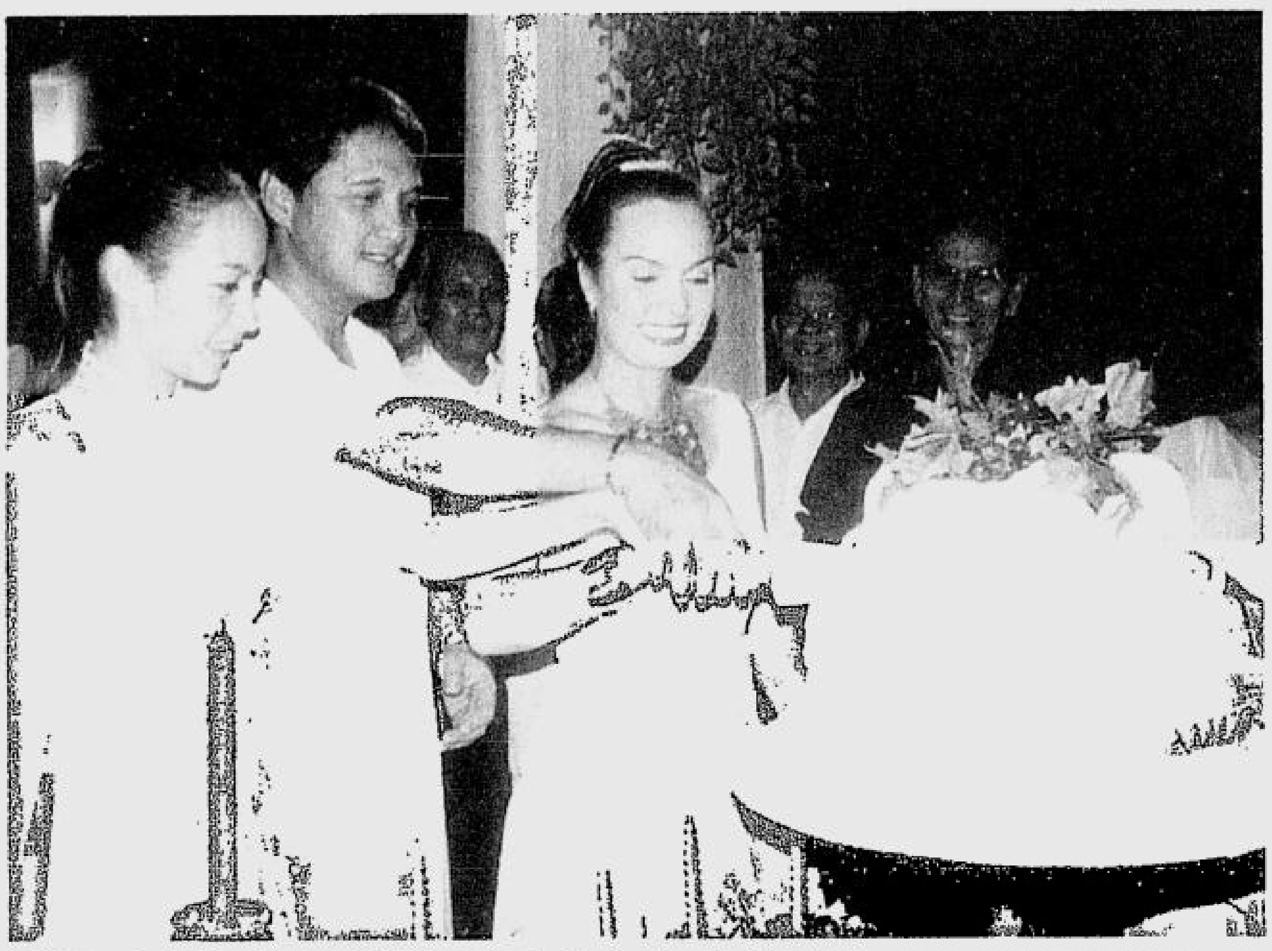
Margie then gave a party for the town's senior citizens by raffling off choice items.

For the last several years, Margie has been celebrating her birthday with the women of this district, as well as with street children and indigenous communities.

This year, "I chose to celebrate it with our senior citizens to pay tribute to our elders," she said.

Margie gave away refrigerators to Barangay Health Centers to be used as storage for medicines and vaccines. She also formally awarded certificates of scholarship to 70 public school members of the Davao Boys' Choir.

Yes, *palanggas*, Margie has definitely become the queen of Davao. Better yet, the whole of Mindanao. Cheers, dahlings!



THREE in the famille: daughter Gabbi, Rep. Tonyboy Floirendo and golden girl Margie Moran Floirendo, slicing her carrot birthday cake

Margie Moran Floirendo celebrated her 50th birthday with Grecian pomp and splendor at her Davao City abode

NENENG de la Paz with Yvonne Sasin

VIVACIOUS Jomar Munarriz with tycoon Don Antonio O. Floirendo

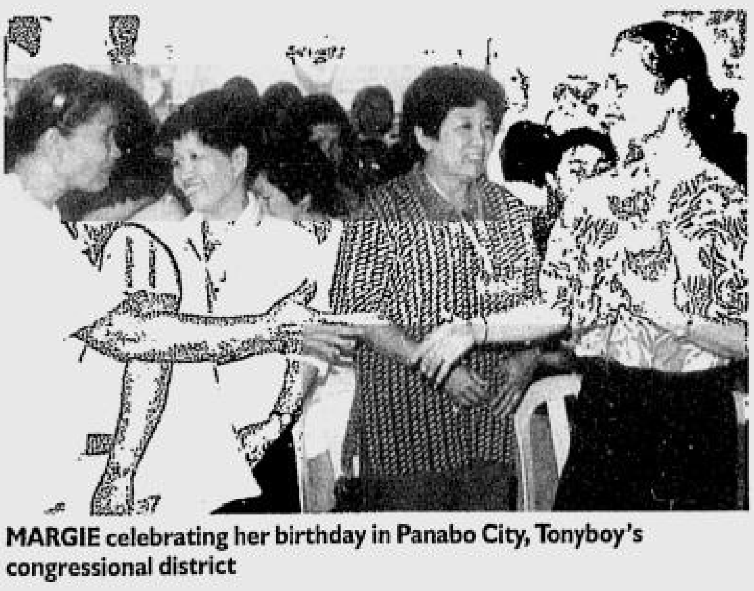
MANOLO Aquino, Peng Perez de Tagle and PSC commissioner Binggoy Montemayor

ISO Montalvan with Binggoy Remedios

NONOY Llamas and Marissa Teng Eng Fo

GEOFFREY Linkemer with Tiny Gavino

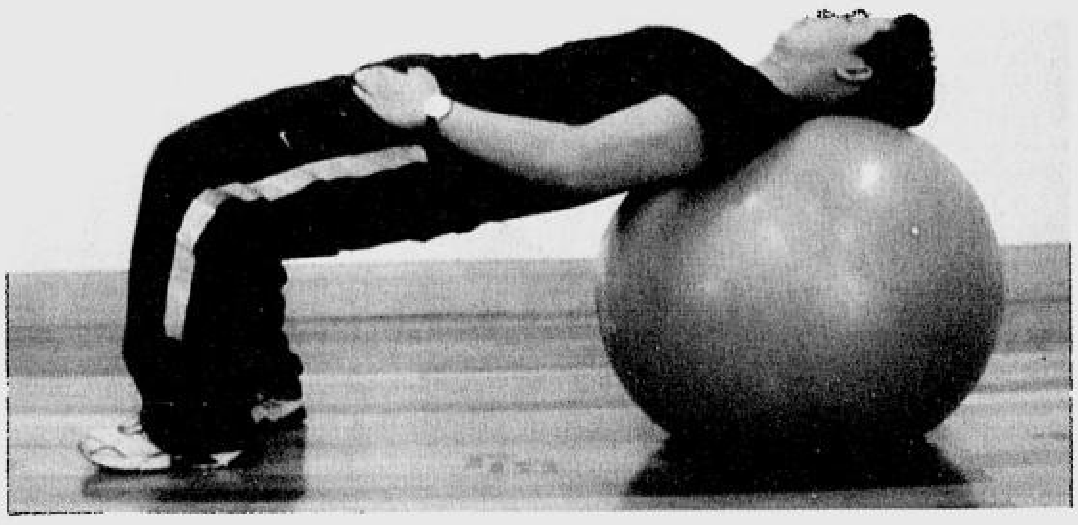
THE HAWAIIAN babes: Karen Santos with Maan Hontiveros, Angel Ramos, Nina Romualdez, Margie, Vicky Perez de Tagle, Jomar Munarriz, Malou Laurel, Carol Garcia, Generose Ferazzini and Chari Gavino



MARGIE celebrating her birthday in Panabo City, Tonyboy's congressional district

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Bridge on stability ball



STRENGTHENS the back of thighs, buttocks and stretches the front of thighs.

Equipment:
Stability ball. As a substitute, you can do this exercise on the side of a sturdy bed.

Exercise technique:

1. Start by sitting on the ball with your legs hip width apart.
2. Slowly lower yourself into the bridge position by walking your feet forward while you simultaneously lean backwards.
3. The ball should stay in contact with your body as it rolls from your lower back to your head and shoulders.
4. Once the ball is behind your head and shoulders, push your feet to the floor to lift your hips level with your shoulders.
5. Hold the position for the desired length of time.

Performance tips:

1. If you feel you need more support, put your hands at the sides of the ball as you lower into the bridge position. Then you can put on your hands on the floor while you hold yourself in the bridge.
2. When you are confident with your balance and stability, lift both arms overhead for an extra stretch in the sides of the torso.

Repetitions:
Hold for 10-30 seconds.

Understanding the glycemic index

From page D1

breakfast of fruit and omelette, group 2 had a medium-GI breakfast of steel-cut oats, and group 3 had a high-GI breakfast of instant oatmeal.

To test what effect the different types of breakfasts had on their appetite at lunchtime, Ludwig put the boys in front of an all-you-can-eat buffet. The boys who ate the high-GI breakfast of instant oatmeal ate twice as much as the boys who ate the fruit and omelette.

The take-home lesson here is, the slower the digestion of carbohydrates, the slower the increase in blood sugar. This means that less insulin is needed, which in turn means that, later, there will be a gradual instead of a sharp drop in blood sugar and there will be less hunger at your next meal.

The less hungry you are, the less food you will want and the more in control of your appetite you will be. The end result is an easier and less painful way of losing weight.

There is also good evidence that eating a diet composed mostly of high GI foods can raise the risk of type-2 diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

Scientists believe this is because your pancreas works double-time producing insulin to deal with the high blood-sugar levels. Over time, this can lead to insulin resistance and type-2 diabetes.

The extra insulin can also increase triglyceride levels (the amount of fat circulating in the blood), lower your HDL or good cholesterol and increase the tendency of your blood to form clots.

It would seem that the GI is all you need to lose weight and stay healthy. Unfortunately, it's not that simple. The GI is not a perfect guide to choosing healthy carbohydrates. As one nutritionist put it, the GI is only part of the weight-loss jigsaw puzzle.

Complete picture

Here's what you need to know about the GI to get a more complete picture.

The GI tells you how fast the carbohydrates in a particular type of food will turn into sugar, but it doesn't tell you how many carbohydrates or calories per average real-life serving the food contains.

It's important to know both. Otherwise, you might think that watermelon should be avoided like the plague because it has a GI of 72.

This is where the glycemic load (GL) comes in. The GL is like an extension or expansion of the concept of the GI. It was created by Dr. Walter Willet of the Harvard School of Medicine together with Dr. Jenny Brand-Miller of the University of Sydney, who is one of the foremost authorities on the GI.

The GL takes into account how many carbohydrates there are in a serving of a particular food, not just how fast the carbs turn into sugar. It uses a different rating than the GI.

A GL of 20 or more is high, a GL of 11-19 is medium, and a GL of 10 or less is low.

A watermelon is mostly water. So one serving doesn't contain as many carbohydrates as a serving of potato, which is mostly starch. Thus, a watermelon has a GI of 72 but a GL of 4, while a baked potato has a GI of 85 and a GL of 26.

If you want a comprehensive list of the GI and GL values of 750 types of food, go to http://diabetes.about.com/library/mendosagi/ngilists.htm.

If you aren't the type to look at a long list of numbers, just remember that food with high water or fiber content will not cause a steep rise in blood sugar levels even if it has a high GI rating.

According to Brand-Miller, "Foods that have a low GI invariably have a low GL, but foods with an intermediate or high GI can range from very low to very high GL. Therefore, you can reduce the GL of your diet by limiting foods that have both a high GI and a high carbohydrate content."

High GI food with plenty of starch or sugar will usually also have a high GL, but high GI food with plenty of water and fiber will usually rank low to medium in the GL scale.

High-calorie foods that contain fat and protein as well as carbohydrates/sugar can rank lower than low-calorie foods that do not contain as much fat or protein.

This is because fat and protein slow down the effect that carbohydrates have on blood sugar.

For example, a chocolate bar has a GI of 45 while green peas have a GI of 54. But a chocolate bar contains far more calories than one serving of green peas.

The GL rating gives a truer picture: The chocolate bar has a GL of 14 while the peas have a GL of 4.

Always remember that when it comes to weight loss, calories still count.

Health benefits

Thus, choose carbohydrate foods based not just on their GI rating but also on the basis of their health benefits.

White rice has a GI of 56 while brown rice is 55. If you use only the GI to choose between the two, there is hardly a difference. But brown rice has more fiber and nutrients compared to white rice. Also, brown rice will make you full faster than white rice will.

The GI of a food depends on many things. Different varieties of rice have a GI ranging from 45-92 because they contain different amounts of starch. According to Paula Wart of Vanderbilt University, the amount of cooking and processing also makes a difference.

"Starches in food swell when cooked (whether it's boiled, broiled, baked, or fried)," she writes. "The starch grains in a baked potato swell to the bursting point, whereas the starch grains in brown rice remain relatively unchanged. When grains are rolled, ground, or smashed, the protective (and harder to digest) outer coating is removed. Whole oats have a lower GI than oatmeal, which is made from smashed oat grains."

When you combine a high GI food with a low GI food, you get a medium GI rating. For example, corn flakes with milk.

If you eat a high GI food with food that contains protein and fat, you slow down the absorption of the carbohydrates. An example would be bread with peanut butter or a banana with yogurt.

Acidic food like oranges, vinegar and lemon juice also slow down the digestion of carbohydrates and make you less hungry at your next meal.

This explains why grapefruits and apple cider vinegar have a reputation as "fat burners." They don't burn fat or raise the metabolism, but their acidic content blunt the rise in blood sugar.

Try drinking fresh *calamansi* juice (diluted with water) with your meals and see if this works for you. But don't be like my high school classmate who used to drink undiluted *calamansi* juice on an empty stomach because she believed it would burn her fat away. She ended up in the hospital with a very acidic stomach.

For past articles and exercises, and suggestions for future topics, go to www.tinajuanfitness.info.

Tibetan views of death and dying

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

TO THE AVERAGE Western-trained mind, death is one unfathomable mystery whose coming is much dreaded and must be avoided as much as possible. In fact, Western medicine is premised on the avoidance of death and the prolongation of life.

This attitude is opposite that of the Tibetan's view of life and death.

Tibetan Buddhism looks at life and death as natural cycles, two forces intimately connected to each other. Birth in the physical level is seen as death on the spiritual plane, and physical death is looked at as birth in the spirit.

Therefore, death is regarded not really as the end but the beginning of a transition into the spirit world. They call this transition the "bardo."

The concept of the bardo is explained and discussed fully in what has become known as the "Tibetan Book of the Dead."

Actually, according to Tibetan monk Sogyal Rinpoche, the title is a mistranslation of the Tibetan word, much like the Egyptian Book of the Dead was also a mistranslation by Western writers.

The actual name of the book is "Bardo Todrol Chenmo," which means "the Great Liberation through Hearing in the Bardo."

The four bardos

The transition from this life to the afterlife and back is very clearly well established in Tibetan Buddhism as the four bardos. These are:

1. "The natural bardo of this life, which spans the entire period between birth and death."

The time we spend alive is relatively short. "The teachings tell us emphatically that the bardo of this life is the only, and therefore the best, time to prepare for death." That is why in Tibet, the moment a child is born, he or she is already being prepared for death.

2. "The painful bardo of dying lasts from the beginning of the process of dying right up until the end of what is known as the inner respiration. This in turn culminates in the dawning of the nature of mind, what we call the 'Ground Luminosity,' of the moment of death.

3. "The luminous bardo of dharmata encompasses the after-death experience of the radiance of the nature of mind, the luminosity or clear light, which manifests as sound, color and light.

4. "The karmic bardo of becoming, which is called generally the bardo or intermediate state, which lasts right up until the moment we take on a new life."

It is at the moment of death that man is given the greatest opportunity for liberation. This may sound paradoxical, since we are more used to the Western concept which sees death as the ultimate end.

Explains Sogyal Rinpoche in the "Tibetan Book of Living and Dying": "However consummate our spiritual mastery may be, we are limited by the body and its karma. But with physical release of death comes the most marvelous opportunity to fulfill everything we have been striving for in our practice and our life.

"Even in the case of a supreme master who has reached the highest realization, the ultimate release, called parinirvana, dawns only at death. That is why in the Tibetan tradition, we do not celebrate the birthdays of masters; we celebrate their death, their moment of final illumination."

We in the Christian world have much to learn from the Tibetan concept of death and dying.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

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Meet your MEDICard Team

At the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Hospital, members can seek the services of Pediatric specialist Dr. Leoncia Natividad-Olonan. Dr. Olonan has been in the service of the HMO's members for more than six years now. She finished Medicine at UST and took her residency training for her specialization in Pediatrics also at the same hospital. Dr. Olonan also subspecializes in Adolescent Medicine, which she finished at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York, USA. For consultations, visit her clinic at Room 6002 from Mondays to Saturdays, except Wednesdays from 11 AM 'till 1 in the afternoon.

Contract Signing

HONDA CARS KALOOKAN, INC. signed last October 16 its corporate agreement with MEDICard for the healthcare program of its employees and their dependents. (Seated L-R) MEDICard's Luis Montoya (EVP & Gen. Mngr.) & Dr. Nicanor Montoya (Pres.) with Honda's John Phillippe Fetalvero (Gen. Mngr.), Rosita Yu (Chief Finance Officer) & John Frederic Ramos (HRMA & CRD Mngr.). (Standing L-R) MEDICard's Voltaire Victoria (Mktg. & Sales Mngr.), Robert John Chainani (Mktg. & Sales Sup.) with Teresita De Guzman (Pres., TSG Health & Life Mktg. Srvcs.) and Honda's HRM Sup. Jophen Rualo & MIS Mngr. Jae Elleazar.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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Beauty wellness list

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THERE'S no stopping technology, and more and more products have been designed to make life more comfortable for us, to bring out the luster in our skin and add to our feel-good moments.

Take a good look at this new-finds list and enjoy their benefits for a stronger body and a more invigorating outlook in life.

Would you like a trimmer tummy? Take up belly dancing! Just one session with instructress Ginajane Z. Grey ought to flatten your stomach, lose the flab and firm up your buttocks.

This is the best abdominal workout yet—plus, it's also guaranteed to bring out the siren in you. Go for it, girl!

How about rediscovering your passion? Flamenco classes should give you the oomph you have long desired. The music, the beat and the rhythm will bring out the edgy romantic in you.

Private lessons are also available. Visit Jundacion Centro Flamenco, 5/L SJG Center, 8463 Rockwell Drive (Kalayaan Ave.) corner Don Pedro, Makati City or call 8090191/8055835.

And what of the warrior in you? Grupo Capoeira Manila can teach you a Brazilian martial arts form called capoeira. Call 8958097.

Where is the hidden soprano/tenor in you? Vocal techniques for beginners and advanced students in various styles such as Broadway, classical, pop, gospel are jazz are yours to be learned. Call the Philippine Opera Company at 7512243.

Want to eat with a clear conscience? Food-tripping with a healthy gourmet flair can be had at Kai Restaurant, Greenbelt 2. Chef Gilbert Pangilinan, Culinary Institute of America graduate, has a talent for preparing light and innovative Japanese fusion dishes that will keep you coming back for more. Delightful treats include the soft-shell crab salad, sea-bass and must-have tofu cheesecake. Call 7575209.

Healthy meals in mind? The Body Worker Health Café owned by celebrity Pilates instructress, Plinky Recto, is in cozy place at Midland Condominium. Her specialties are Tofu Pasta, Low-fat Carrot Cake, Chinese Long Bean Salad and Sweet Pepper Soup. Call 8113471.

Fastfood for a healthy heart? Burger King now serves veggie burger made from soy and herbal ingredients. It tastes delicious and, better yet, is definitely nutritious. Try it some time and give your body a much-needed break from fatty food.

How about a spa treatment by the skytop pool side? The Bellevue Spa Club at the Bellevue Hotel in Filinvest City gives one the best respites from stress.

Have a workout at their next-door gym, plunge into the nearby pool then have a soothing Thai or aromatherapy massage to cap your day.

And just before you go, stop to take in your glimpse of the night sky. This should be just as intoxicating as the majestic cityscape view from their popular 20/20 lounge. All this in just one stop. Call 7718181.

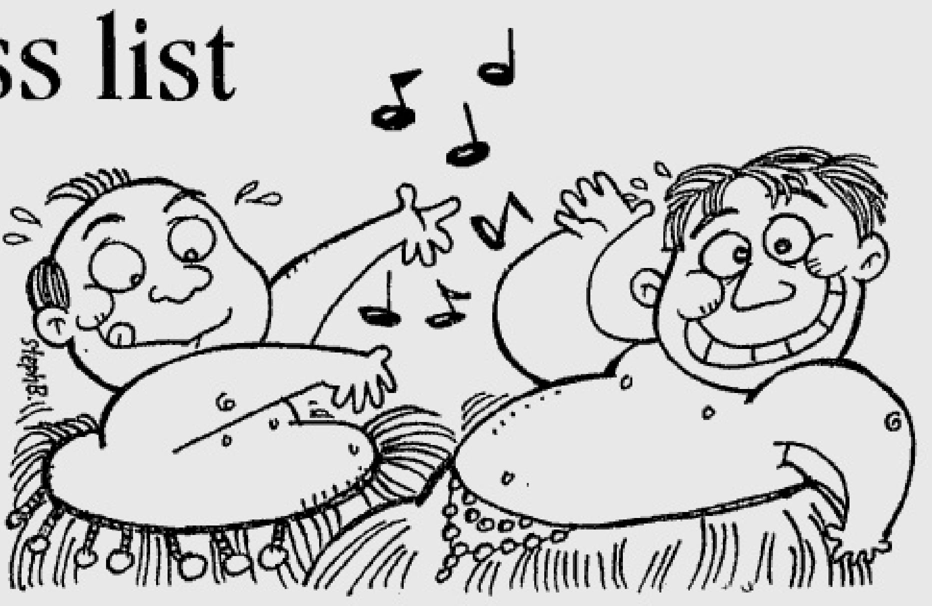

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

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Beauty in a jiffy? Revlon offers an easy way to a smoothly finished look. Try its new Complexion One-stop Makeup Compact; it's silky, moist yet powdery. Better yet, it's being sold with a 20-percent discount.

Yes, an affirmation a day brings blessings straight away. Morning ritual: Wake up with energy, not lethargy. Jump out instead of sliding out of your bed.

Then, stand firmly on your feet. Take slow deep breaths. Face the morning light. Affirm: "This day I bathe in blessings as radiant as the morning light. And this is so."

Love and light!

"Total Wellness" workshop by Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino, offered by Nestlé Nutren, will be held at the Nestlé Rockwell Office in November. Only the first 100 callers will be accepted. Call 8980001 loc. 7183.

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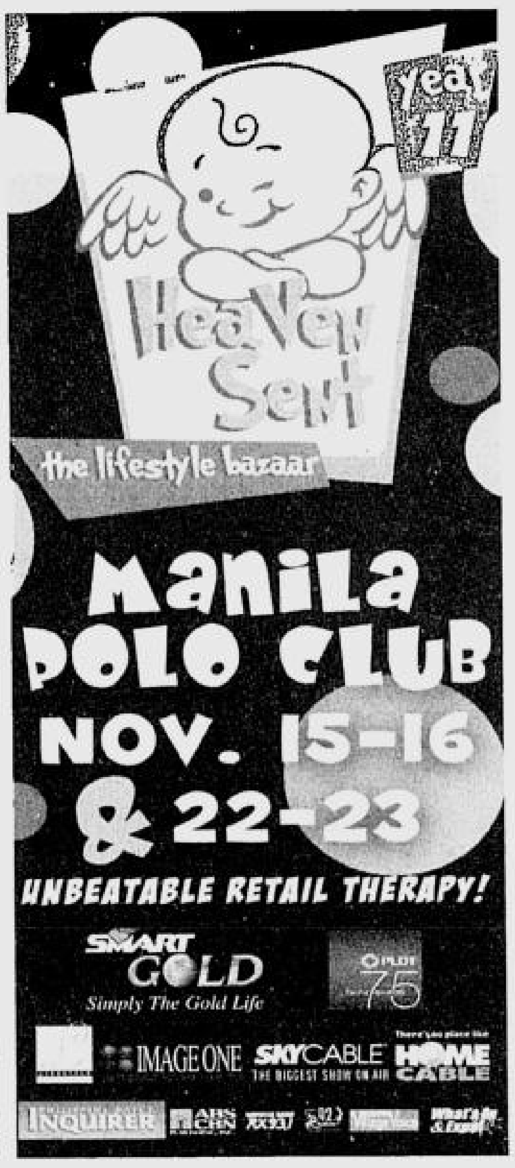
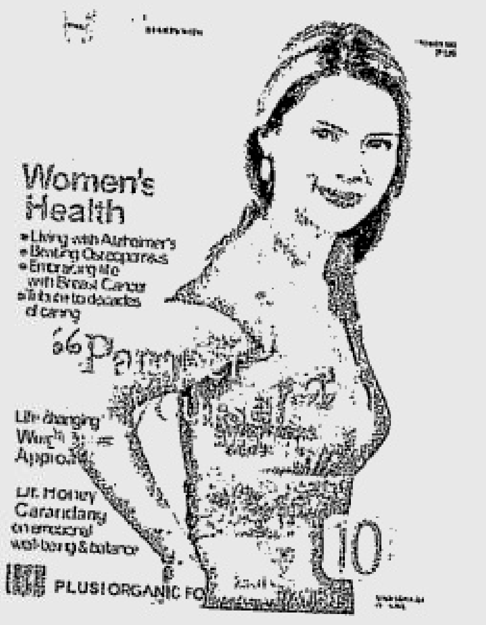


Stories of survival


Women's Health
Living with Alzheimer's
Beating Osteoporosis
Embracing life with Breast Cancer
Life Changing Weight Approach
Dr. Honey Carandang on emotional well-being & balance
10
PLUS! ORGANIC FO

FOR a while, Susan Aycardo was cancer-free, having gone through a mastectomy and treatment for her stage four breast cancer. Then last year, she went into remission. After a doctor at Stanford Medical Center California didn't mince words about her condition, Aycardo knew it was serious. Instead of sulking, she took up painting. She continues to give messages of hope through her art and does this for the glory of the Lord. Me editor in chief Cathy Babao-Guballa learns how Aycardo seizes the day in "Life is Beautiful."

Likewise, Marisette Galang-Recto is a brave woman, living life to its fullest despite having breast cancer.

In "Embracing Living with Dying," she tells her bout with cancer. Today, Recto and her family keep her health in check and help other cancer patients and their families through Bosom Buddies, a breast cancer support group.

Rizza Singson takes time to reflect on how her mother's Alzheimer's makes her remember "Mommy's Lessons."

Paraplegic mother Irma Camarillo Coronel speaks about "My Disability and My Mission."

Dr. Sandra Tankeh-Torres explains why osteoporosis is "The Silent Thief" and gives tips on how to prevent it from happening.

"Feeling Whole" makes a believer out of Leah Eriguel that losing unwanted pounds is really mind over matter.

Dr. Ma. Lourdes Arellano-Carandang explains why she's "On a Mission to Bring Joy" with being healthy physically, emotionally and mentally.

Find out what's in Thailand that made Guballa fall in love.

The latest issue of "Me" magazine, published by Mega Magazines and Publications, Inc., features Vina Morales on the cover.

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